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5 Leaders in Kosovo 'Executed,' NATO Asserts

Air War 'Long Way From Over,' Clark Warns

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The top NATO military commander warned Monday that the air war against Serbian forces in Yugoslavia was far from over as President Boris Yeltsin of Russia dispatched his prime minister to Belgrade to try to halt the fighting and as France also said that it was seeking a diplomatic solution.

General Wesley Clark, the NATO commander, said: "This is a campaign that is a long way from being over militarily. We knew it was not going to

be a three- or four-day, one- or two-bomb affair."

Backing up those words, a Pentagon official said Monday that five B-1 bombers had been ordered to deploy to Europe to join the NATO air strikes.

President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia is accelerating an offensive to "cleanse" Kosovo of its ethnic Albanian majority, General Clark said.

"He's working very, very fast," General Clark told Reuters Television News, "trying to present the world with a fait accompli, to change the demographics of Kosovo. He's doing this

very quickly."

U.S. officials also warned that the operation was open-ended. "We are in what could be the early part of this," said Joe Lockhart, the White House spokesman.

General Clark said NATO aircraft were now able to "operate through" Yugoslav air defenses. "We know he is worried about NATO air," General Clark said of Mr. Milosevic. "He has changed his operational patterns on the ground in response to it."

As air attacks in Serbia and Kosovo entered their sixth day, Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov of Russia prepared

to go to Belgrade to seek "an immediate halt" to the air strikes. (Page 4)

President Jacques Chirac said France was simultaneously working for a diplomatic solution. "This action needs time and determination," Mr. Chirac said of the NATO offensive, adding that its objective was "to reduce President Milosevic's means of repression."

"In the meantime, France wants to seek a diplomatic solution," Mr. Chirac added. "We are working on it relentlessly. France, which sponsored the Rambouillet meeting, continues to take initiatives for peace," he said. He did not elaborate on exactly what measures the French government was pursuing diplomatically.

James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said Washington welcomed any diplomatic efforts that lead to a halt to Belgrade's offensive and that persuade President Milosevic to "comply with his international commitments."

But he made it clear that NATO would continue its air assault "until such time as President Milosevic halts his offensive and commits to a settlement based on the Rambouillet ac-

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FEHMI AGANI AT THE KOSOVO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN FRANCE IN FEBRUARY.

The Victims Include Aide At Meetings In France

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — NATO officials said Monday that five prominent ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, including Fehmi Agani, a member of the delegation to peace talks in France this winter, had been "executed."

The alliance's military spokesman, Air Commodore David Wilby of Britain, said at a news conference that reliable sources had reported that, apart from Mr. Agani, four other prominent ethnic Albanians had been put to death Sunday.

The victims included, he said, Baton Haxhiu, editor in chief of the main Kosovo Albanian newspaper, Koha Ditor.

Commodore Wilby added that the killings took place after the ethnic Albanian leaders attended the funeral of Bajram Kelmendi, a lawyer who was shot and killed by Serbian police officers. They dumped his body in the street along with those of his two sons on the first night of NATO air strikes last Wednesday.

Albanian sources named two others of those killed as Alush Gashi, an adviser to Ibrahim Rugova, an ethnic Albanian leader, and Din Mehmeti, a writer.

Albanian journalists denounced the killings and the suppression of the media by Yugoslav authorities. "It's fascism," said one journalist.

Scores of executions by members of the Serbian Army and paramilitary units were also reported in the towns of Suva Reka and Landovica in the south and Mitrovica in the north.

NATO reported during the weekend that Mr. Rugova was in hiding after his house was burned down. The alliance has accused Yugoslav authorities of targeting ethnic Albanian intellectuals in Kosovo.

The Pristina offices of the newspaper Koha Ditor were wrecked soon after the start of the air campaign and the caretaker murdered, according to ethnic Albanian sources.

Mr. Agani, 66, who was part of the Kosovar Albanian delegation to peace talks in Rambouillet, near Paris, in February, was a sociology professor and member of the Kosovo academy.

He was one of five founder members of the Democratic League of Kosovo, headed by Mr. Rugova, and coordinator of a previous team for peace negotiations that had several meetings with Western mediators.

He was close to Mr. Rugova, but respected by all political groups, ethnic Albanians said. (Reuters, AFP)

Racing to the Rescue

As Enemy Closed In, Elite U.S. Team Flew To Scene and Picked Up Downed Stealth Pilot

By Dana Priest
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It had been dark for an hour when the Stealth F-117A Nighthawk fighter-bomber flew over Budanovci, a Serbian village like many of the others in the Fruska Gora hills northwest of Belgrade.

As the plane passed over the hazardous, scrubby terrain — the perfect hiding place for anti-aircraft weapons — an SA-3 missile roared through the sky and did the unthinkable: It struck a plane that was designed to be nearly invisible.

The plane crashed, and orange flames jumped into the Saturday night sky.

The pilot, through luck or skill, escaped and found a hiding place on the ground.

It was 8:45, and the pilot of the NATO plane teamed with the Nighthawk was urgently calling in the to the air operations command center, which relayed the bad news through secure radio frequencies to the dozens of NATO pilots in the area.

Meanwhile, Yugoslav troops, aware they had scored the first hit on a North Atlantic Treaty Organization aircraft in the air war, were moving in.

In Italy, a U.S. Air Force Special Operations team of pararescuers, so elite that there are only 400 of them

among the 363,500 personnel in the Air Force, went into action.

Outfitted head to toe in black and carrying an extra camouflage uniform in case they needed to blend into the Yugoslav terrain in daylight, the rescuers waited for word from the pilot.

It apparently came sometime shortly after midnight when the pilot, having been in hiding for about three and a half hours, got a message through to the searchers: There were troops in the area, and they were closing in.

"It was really a race between the rescuers and the Yugoslav Army," said a senior Pentagon official, one of several officials who provided details of the rescue on condition they not be named.

"There were enemy in the area, and the rescuers were making an aggressive attempt to rescue him."

The Yugoslavs had an intimate knowledge of the terrain on their side. The Air Force rescuers had training and equipment on theirs.

The Special Operations troops who jumped from the sky to rescue the lone pilot were some of the U.S. military's most highly trained commandos.

Trained at the U.S. Air Force Pararescue School at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, their primary mission is combat rescue, the art of infiltrating

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Nosedive of Euro Tests Resolve of ECB

Tietmeyer Expresses Concern and Some Analysts Foresee Further Dips

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — The euro slipped to fresh lows Monday, and Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, expressed concern and vowed that the European Central Bank would pursue a "lastingly strong and stable euro."

"The euro must try to gain the strength of its predecessors and, above all, must win confidence and a reputation of its own," Mr. Tietmeyer said Monday night in a speech in the Dutch city of Utrecht, according to an advance text of the remarks.

The new currency, which the 11-nation euro bloc launched in January, has cascaded to a succession of new lows since its inception. At its weakest point Monday, it fell to \$1.0680 from its previous record low Friday just above \$1.0800. That is nearly 10 percent under its peak of \$1.1837 on Jan. 4, its first day of trading.

At 3 P.M. in New York, the euro was quoted at \$1.0737.

Some currency market experts note that the main constituent currencies of the euro — including the Deutsche mark and the French franc — are still above their levels against the dollar of about a

year ago, and thus the euro itself is not weak by some measures. But others say they think the euro could be headed for a period of further declines and prolonged weakness.

A further slump in the euro amounts to a test of nerves for the newly minted European Central Bank, economists concur. With the credibility of Europe's most ambitious integration project at stake, the ECB is certain to find a point where it must draw the line.

"The euro and its institutions are still too green and too short of credibility for the ECB to ignore such a development," said Adolf Rosenstock, economist in Frankfurt for Nomura International.

Analysts predict the three-month-old currency will slip to \$1.05 or lower, which translates to a dollar rate of 1.86 Deutsche marks — a level of weakness that the Bundesbank historically defended, said Gerhard Grebe, analyst in Frankfurt for Bank Julius Baer AG. Mr. Rosenstock sees the euro headed as low as \$1.03.

In his speech in Utrecht, Mr. Tietmeyer appeared resigned to the factors that inflate the dollar's value, such as the "special international developments" in Kosovo and the "unexpectedly strong economic performance" in the

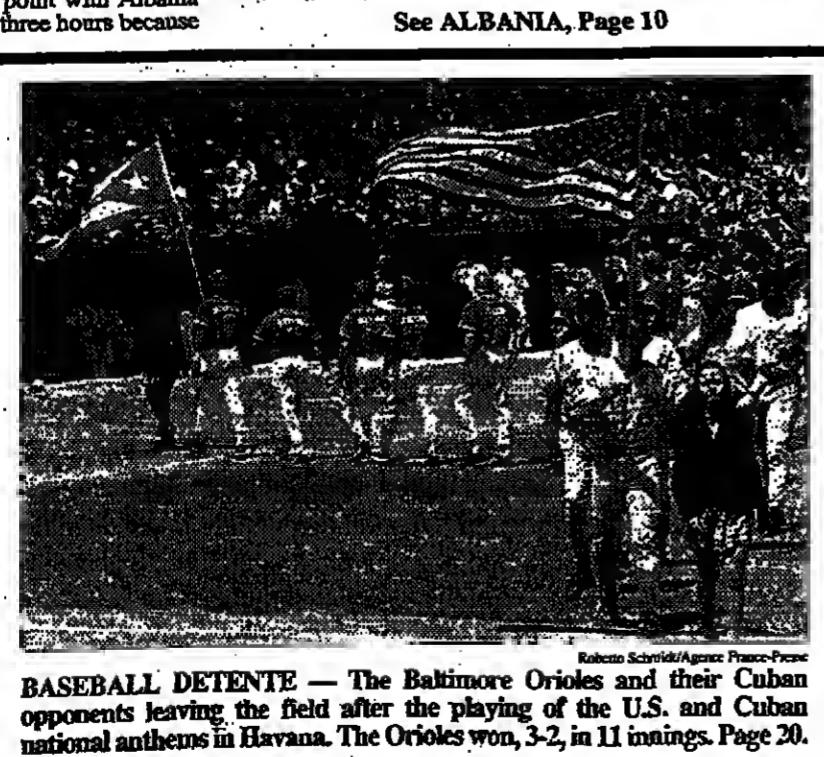
United States.

But while he warned against panic, he vowed to monitor the euro's well-being. "Composure is appropriate, but disregard is not," he said.

"We in the ECB do not pursue an

See EURO, Page 14

The Dollar		
New York	Monday @ 3 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.0737	1.0768
Pound	1.6167	1.6225
Yen	120.145	120.25
DM	1.8217	1.8164
FF	6.1096	6.0892
Dollars per pound and per euro		
The Dow		
Monday @ 3:30	percent change	
+202.58	10,024.82	+2.06%
S & P 500		
+25.25	1,308.08	+1.97%
Nasdaq		
+65.08	2,485.40	+2.73%



Facing Huge Debt Payments, Russia Reaches Loan Accord With IMF

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, capping a long negotiation with the International Monetary Fund, announced Monday that the IMF would resume lending to Russia.

Officials said the money would cover \$4.8 billion in Russian debts to the Fund this year.

Mr. Primakov's announcement followed a three and a half hour meeting with the IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus, and represented an

important victory for Mr. Primakov, who has been striving to keep Russia from a more serious default on its sovereign debts.

Mr. Camdessus left Moscow without commenting on the deal, and a joint communiqué issued by both sides stopped short of saying the money would be disbursed. Rather, following past practice, it said that agreement had been reached on sending a full-scale IMF delegation to Moscow next week, to work out an economic program, which would then be submitted to the IMF board of directors for approval.

"I can say we have agreed about cooperation, agreed that we will be offered a loan and that next week a full mission will come which will complete the preparation of documents," Mr. Primakov told a news conference.

The statement said Russia and the Fund had agreed that Russia's budget surplus, after interest expenses, would be 2 percent. The IMF had been seeking 3.5 percent, but Russia said it could not cover spending that far. The statement said both sides had agreed "on most of the measures needed to achieve this."

Mr. Camdessus, who made a whirlwind tour of Russian business and political leaders, said in the statement that the IMF would "continue its constructive cooperation with Russia," and Russia promised to do likewise.

The statement was especially significant for Mr. Primakov, who has staked much of his political standing on the goal of winning an agreement from the fund in the face of skepticism among many western economists and policymakers.

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Newsstand Prices	
Bahrain	1.000 BD Muta
Cyprus	£ 1.00 Nigeria ... 12500 Naira
Denmark	17 DKK Oman ... 1.250 OR
Finland	12.00 FM Qatar ... 10.00 QR
Gibraltar	£ 0.85 Rep. Ireland ... 1R £1.10
Great Britain	£1.00 Saudi Arabia ... 1R £1.10
Egypt	£ 6.50 S. Africa R15 incl VAT
Jordan	1.250 JD U.A.E. ... 10.00 DH
Kenya	K. Sh. 160 U.S. M. (Eur) ... \$ 1.20
Kuwait	700 Fils Zimbabwe ... £m 34.00

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Fleeing the Battles / 'If It Is Not the Bombs, It Is the Guns'

Fierce Fighting Rages All Over Kosovo, Refugees Say

By Carlotta Gall
New York Times Service

OHRID, Macedonia — The separatist rebels in Kosovo are holding out surprisingly well against an apparent major Serbian offensive in Kosovo, despite losses and a shortage of ammunition, foreign military observers in Macedonia say.

With reports of killings of civilians and with refugees fleeing from Kosovo, there is also a serious military battle going on. The 1,400 foreign observers for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, who had been sent in to help maintain the former cease-fire, left before the NATO bombing began. Since that time, Serbian forces apparently have concentrated on trying to defeat the Kosovo Liberation Army, the rebel group.

The government troops have reportedly pushed ahead with unexpected energy, apparently to try to gain an advantage before the NATO bombing takes too great toll on their forces in Kosovo.

The reports emerging from Kosovo as late as Sunday indicated that fierce fighting has been raging all over the Serbian province, in particular in areas just north of the capital, Pristina — around the towns of Podujevo, Mitrovica and the heartland of rebel territory, Drenica. Heavy fighting has also been reported around Dakovica and Sutva Reka, in southwestern Kosovo.

Civilians fleeing Kosovo into Macedonia on Sunday said that firefights had been taking place in the towns, including Pristina, and Prizren, in the south.

Agin Vinca, a philosophy professor at Pristina University, said he escaped by car, his children crying in the back seat. "All you hear is the fighting," he said. "If it is not the bombs, it is the guns — every moment, you do not know what is happening. It is worse than hell."

Serbian forces have apparently succeeded in the last few days in taking at least two rebel command centers — Lapastica, near Podujevo, and Likovac, in central Drenica. Journalists from the rebel news agency, Kosova Press, say that the troops have been using MiG fighter planes to bomb areas in Kosovo and have moved more tanks into the areas evacuated by the rebels.

But the rebels say their commanders have so far evaded capture, and the rebel group has continued its resistance, moving its various headquarters and keeping the command structure intact.

"Their coherence has improved massively since last year," said a military observer from the European group's Kosovo Verification Mission, who maintained contact with rebel leaders even after the monitors were withdrawn from Kosovo more than a week ago. Members of the monitoring group spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The fact that they have lasted this long, that their command and control is still intact, is proof," he said.

"They have protected refugees to some extent, and have managed to keep the Serbs off," he said. He gave as an example a situation in central Drenica

where the Serbian advance has reportedly come within about 1.5 kilometers of thousands of refugees in several villages. He said that, based on conversations with the rebels, they had delayed the Serbian advance by a week, winning some time for the refugees.

There were now signs that some parts of the rebel group are breaking up their battalions into units of four to five men and sending them off on search-and-destroy missions against the police and army supply convoys.

If the rebels adopt this sort of classic insurgency tactics, and even take the battle to the towns, it could serve as a painful irritant to the government forces, the observers say. In the past, the rebels have largely confined their activity to villages and rural areas, while the government has maintained control of larger towns.

As Yugoslavia's forces are weakened by NATO bombing and are cut off from supplies and reinforcements from elsewhere in Serbia, which is the main entity in Yugoslavia, they and the rebels are likely to become more evenly matched, the monitors said. Then, if the rebels manage to keep going, the two sides could arrive at a stalemate. The rebels "could never win, but a stalemate would be a victory," one monitor said.

Moral appears to be high among the rebels. The chief of staff of the rebels, contacted by telephone Sunday, admitted losing some territory, but immediately vowed to win it back.

The rebels "will fight harder to regain the ground they have lost," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He said the rebel group "is not losing the war and it will never lose. It will continue the war until freedom."

He said there had been heavy fighting

around Suya Reka and Prizren and that civilians were being forced out of the area. He said government forces were apparently forcing residents to flee by burning villages to deprive the rebels of the support of the local population, but also to depopulate Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians had been 90 percent of the population, so the government could control it more easily.

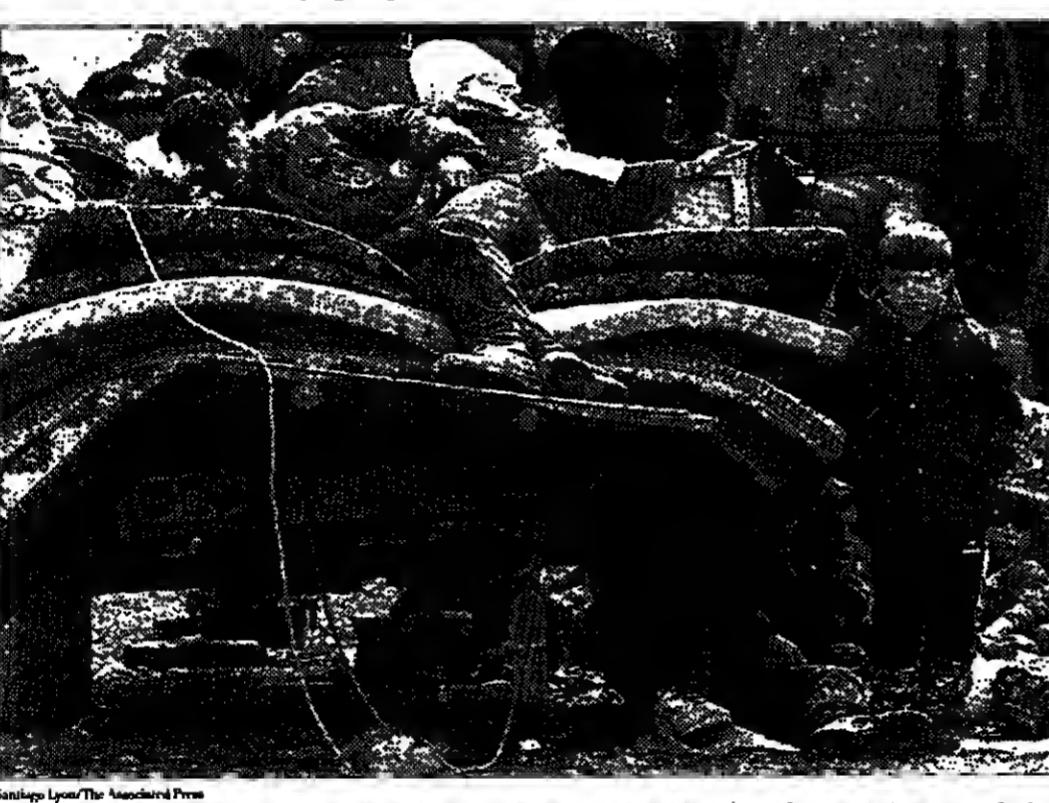
The foreign observers broadly agreed with his analysis. Serbian forces are pushing from the north, clearing the area of both rebels and the ethnic Albanian population generally, he said.

"They are squeezing them down to the southwest," one of the observers said, adding that the authorities might be aiming for a partition of Kosovo, in an effort to retain the north, with its Serbian Orthodox monasteries and industry and mines.

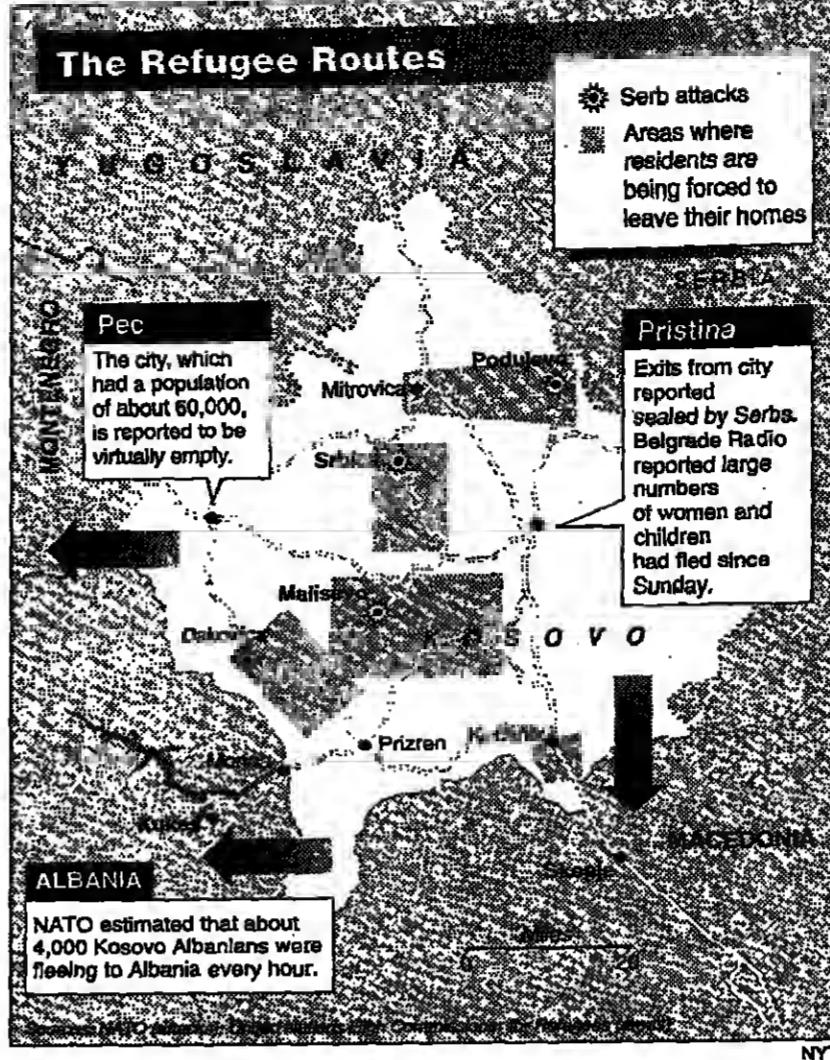
While the Serbs are proving successful at forcing the civilian population to flee, the rebels were proving resilient, even though under pressure and low on ammunition, the observers said.

The main liability now for the rebels is the displaced civilian population. They are reported to be desperately short of food in some areas, and so their situation is restricting rebel activities, and deflecting rebels from keeping up their fighting.

The key over the next few weeks will be whether the ethnic Albanians can get supplies in — that is, food for the civilian population, and ammunition for the rebel fighters. With 6,000 to 7,000 Serbian troops guarding the border, and a 16-kilometer (10-mile) stretch cleared for the purpose, supply routes have been disrupted and thousands of people trapped in the area, civilians may not be able to get food.



Santiago Lyon/The Associated Press
A Kosovo family, above, resting Monday in a northern Albanian town after escaping. An ethnic Albanian weeping on his arrival Monday in Macedonia.



Macedonia, Fearing Serbs, Urges NATO To Give Help

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Macedonia's foreign minister said Monday that his country was "one step away" from being dragged into the Kosovo war, and he called on the European Union and NATO for economic and military assistance.

The official, Alexander Dimitrov, said Yugoslavia's armed forces were approaching the Macedonia border. He said Macedonia lacked sufficient military capabilities and that the 12,000 NATO troops now deployed in the country were not a deterrent.

From Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, there were reports that the country was seeking immediate membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to protect it from any Serbian action.

NATO troops were sent to Macedonia to rescue, if necessary, any civilians sent into Kosovo in case a peace agreement was signed during talks in France between the Yugoslavs and secessionist ethnic Albanians.

Mr. Dimitrov said there was "a need for greater guarantees for the integrity and protection of the borders of Macedonia." He said he had discussions with Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany and would meet later in the day with Defense Minister Rudolf Schaar.

"This is what we demand of NATO, and Germany is a member state of NATO," Mr. Dimitrov said. "I came here to ask for understanding for the position of Macedonia. We are one step away from war."

Neither Mr. Fischer nor Mr. Dimitrov elaborated on what sort of military assistance was required or what NATO would be ready to provide, if anything.

Mr. Fischer, whose country now holds the rotating EU presidency, said the European Union was preparing additional humanitarian aid for Macedonia.

It has given 21.6 million euros (\$23.3 million) in food, medicines and other aid to date, and officials said a further 20 million euros was available for Kosovo refugees.

Ethnic Albanians comprise 40 percent of Macedonia's population. The country has already absorbed 20,000 refugees from Kosovo.

Mr. Dimitrov said it appeared that 15,000 to 20,000 more were moving toward Macedonia, fleeing Serb military forces in Kosovo.

■ Seeking a 'Security Guarantee'

Earlier, Daniel Williams of The Washington Post wrote from Skopje:

Macedonia, nervous about its security because of the crisis in neighboring Kosovo and fearing a vengeful Serbia, has asked NATO to admit it immediately.

"The Macedonians are saying they have real security concerns that demand support for NATO operations," a Western diplomat said. "They want a security guarantee."

Western armor and troops are deployed in Macedonia in readiness for any peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

Deputy Prime Minister Radmila Kiprianova said Macedonia would not be used as a base for invasion by NATO ground troops to stop the killings and expulsions of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

But she did not rule out a change in policy.

Foreign Minister Alexander Dimitrov is set to travel to Athens, Rome, Bonn and Brussels to lobby for NATO membership, Mrs. Kiprianova said.

He will argue that Macedonia should quickly be made a member of the alliance or at least be given a security guarantee because of its support for NATO operations.

Across the border, Yugoslavs appear to be taking the possibility of an attack against them seriously. Refugees crossing into Macedonia say troops have mined the border and that roads and towns are full of troops. Tanks are said to be posted near the border.

Under Bombing, Montenegro's Anti-Milosevic Stance Wavers

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Service

PODGORICA, Yugoslavia — Residents here watched nervously Sunday afternoon as two bombs dropped by a NATO warplane sent a huge column of black smoke billowing into the pale blue sky over the city's airport. It was another successful attack, officials here said, not only on a Yugoslav military target but also on this Montenegrin capital's ambition to stay out of the West's war with Yugoslavia.

Because the political leadership in Montenegro, Serbia's much smaller partner in the Yugoslav federation, is led by avowed opponents of President Slobodan Milosevic and his policies in the nearby Serbian province of Kosovo, many here expected to be spared NATO air strikes.

Instead, Yugoslav military targets in Montenegro have been hit on four of the first five days of NATO's assault. It has sparked rising public protest, which the democratically minded Montenegrin leadership fears may eventually con-

sume any pro-Western sentiment. As in Serbia, which has absorbed the brunt of the NATO air strikes, sentiment is rapidly becoming more sympathetic to Mr. Milosevic.

"We are a lighthouse for the region," said Branko Perovic, Montenegro's foreign minister, adding that "you are hitting the lighthouse." He said it was a "very destabilizing moment for us" and a "very unifying factor" for a population that was previously critical of the Serb-led Yugoslav government and toying with the idea of leaving the federation.

Anti-American demonstrations have grown larger, with about 100 people attending one Friday and 1,500 at one Sunday. Tensions are rising between the Yugoslav Army, which is ruled by Belgrade, and Montenegro's Interior Ministry troops, which are loyal to the republic's leaders and are now deployed in force around government buildings and at major intersections here.

Some of the tensions stem from the refusal by the republic's leaders to honor Belgrade's emergency decree giving the

military the right to draft recruits for service in Kosovo. The army has set up checkpoints on the outskirts of the city, where its troops have reportedly begun pulling young men from cars to be sent to barracks for immediate duty.

A trickle of ethnic Albanian refugees across the republic's border with Kosovo, meanwhile, has started to look more like a flood, with a migration of roughly 1,000 people on Saturday swelling to 5,000 Sunday. There are reports of tens of thousands more who are waiting to cross because of an intensifying crackdown by security forces in the western Kosovo city of Pec and nearby villages.

A large refugee flow would pose a new challenge to Montenegro's beleaguered economy and could ignite a backlash among the majority Slavic population here, some officials worry. Already, more than 5 percent of Montenegro's 680,000 residents are refugees from Kosovo, and in some cities the percentage is close to half.

President Milo Djukanovic, a strong advocate of closer ties with the West, has

tried to keep the republic's emotions in check by mildly criticizing the air strikes. He also has urged commanders of the Yugoslav 2d Army based in Montenegro not to retaliate against the bombing and draw further NATO fire that might produce civilian casualties.

The Montenegrin government also has attempted to counter the Belgrade government's robust propaganda about NATO aggression by allowing local television to broadcast CNN and Sky News reports about the conflict, with a voice-over in Serbo-Croatian.

Despite NATO strikes on at least 10 military targets in Montenegro, army units here have not fired a shot in retaliation. But political leaders say they are not certain whether this is because the anti-aircraft system has been destroyed, the army has been persuaded to avoid a confrontation, or Mr. Milosevic has merely ordered his generals here to keep their powder dry for a response in coming days.

"The bombardment has radicalized feelings here," a top official said. "The

situation has empowered Milosevic with the result that "we have spent a lot of time keeping things under control." The official said that none of the leadership wants Montenegro to take part in the fight between Mr. Milosevic and the West, but that the population's divided loyalties mean "if we try to turn the radars off by force, it would mean civil war."

The reason that Mr. Djukanovic refused to honor the Belgrade government's emergency decree, officials said, is that it would have given the army authority to take over state-owned broadcast outlets, conduct propaganda, draft anyone it wants to and move its forces anywhere in the republic without the approval of the civilian leadership.

Mr. Djukanovic and his aides saw this as tantamount to a Milosevic-backed military coup and offered instead to organize joint patrols of Interior Ministry and army troops, an idea the army rejected. But Mr. Djukanovic's refusal to cooperate earned him a new sobriquet in the official Belgrade press last Thursday: "the greatest traitor in Montenegro."

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TRAVEL UPDATE

U.K. Air Traffic Control Bug-Free

LONDON (AP) — Britain's air traffic control systems are free of the millennium bug, authorities said Monday.

The declaration came after technicians from the Civil Aviation Authority completed \$10 million (\$16.2 million) worth of testing on computers controlling more than 700 air traffic control systems. About 5,000 flights pass through British airspace each day.

The National Air Traffic Services agency said it would next

test compliance with neighboring systems in Europe and Canada, and would continue to work on contingency plans.

A Fire Delays

BOSTON (AP) — A manhole fire in eastern Boston caused a temporary blackout at Logan International Airport.

The outage Sunday night did not affect runway lights or air traffic, but it caused some delays in boarding flights.

Backup systems restored power within minutes to all but one of the airport's terminals.

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WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe

Today High Low W CDF

Tomorrow High Low W CDF

Wednesday High Low W CDF

Thursday High Low W CDF

Friday High Low W CDF

Saturday High Low W CDF

Sunday High Low W CDF

Monday High Low W CDF

Paraguayan On the Run Gets Asylum In Argentina

Copied by Our Staff From Dispatches

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina granted political asylum on Monday to General Lino Oviedo, the retired former Paraguayan military chief who fled here late Sunday night after he was accused of ordering the assassination of Vice President Luis María Argana of Paraguay.

General Oviedo's flight here for asylum and Argentina's decision to grant him asylum put Argentina in the middle of Paraguay's political crisis, which boiled over with the assassination of the vice president last Tuesday and climaxed Sunday with the forced resignation of President Raúl Cubas.

"Senor Lino Cesar Oviedo is granted political asylum," the Argentine Interior Ministry said in a statement that cited an 1889 extradition treaty.

General Oviedo, who for a tumultuous eight months was the power behind the throne of President Raúl Cubas, escaped from Paraguay with his wife and children in a light aircraft on Sunday night.

Mr. Cubas resigned earlier Sunday, five days after Mr. Argana was shot and killed in his car. The Senate leader, Luis González Macchi, 52, was quickly sworn in as president.

On Monday, a Paraguayan judge ordered Mr. Cubas to be placed under house arrest on negligent homicide charges stemming from the deaths of five protesters last week.

General Oviedo was sentenced last year to 10 years in prison for plotting a coup in 1996, but was set free when Mr. Cubas took power in August.

Mr. Cubas was facing impeachment for failing to re-arrest General Oviedo on charges of leading the failed coup. Arriving in Argentina on Sunday night, General Oviedo asked for political asylum, but a Paraguayan judge, several congressmen and armed bodyguards arrived on Monday morning in Argentina to request his extradition.

Congressman Angel Barrientos said earlier Monday that General Oviedo's reported friendship with President Carlos Saúl Menem of Argentina should not impede extradition for offenses including alleged involvement in Mr. Argana's killing.

Congress was already planning to dismiss Mr. Cubas for freeing General Oviedo from jail shortly after taking office in August in defiance of the Supreme Court. General Oviedo had been serving a 10-year jail sentence for attempting to overthrow former President Juan Carlos Wasmosy in 1996.

But the Argentine statement included the text of a decree issued by Interior Minister Carlos Corach saying that the government agrees with General Oviedo's lawyers that the general deserves asylum under international law.

Paraguay's protracted crisis goes back to a 1996 failed coup attempt by General Oviedo, a populist, to oust then-President Juan Carlos Wasmosy. General Oviedo ran for president two years later, but during the campaign he was imprisoned for the coup attempt. That led to the election of Mr. Cubas, his vice presidential candidate.

When Mr. Cubas defied the Supreme Court and freed General Oviedo from prison as one of his first acts in office last August, it set off a move by congressional opponents and Mr. Argana to impeach him. The vice president's assassination by several men dressed in military fatigues last week set off a wave of street demonstrations and violence that finally forced Mr. Cubas to resign.

Paraguayan prosecutors have accused General Oviedo of masterminding the assassination.

Meanwhile, a Paraguayan judge has accused him of ordering the slayings of six young demonstrators who marched against Mr. Cubas's government last week.

As 60,000 people gathered in the streets of Asuncion on Sunday night to celebrate the emergence of Senator González Macchi as president, General Oviedo spirited himself out of the country.

(Reuters, NYT, AFP)



Raul Cubas, with his wife, Mirta Gusinsky, waving after resigning as president of Paraguay. At right, his successor, Luis Gonzalez Macchi, the Senate president, taking questions at a press conference in Asuncion.

Philip Morris's Children's Crusade

Skepticism Greets Anti-Smoking Campaign Aimed at Youngsters

By Sandra Torry
Washington Post Service

Philip Morris's research on young smokers.

WASHINGTON — Their eyes meet across the room. The teenage girl walks over to chat, but then the boy pulls out a pack of cigarettes. Suddenly, he morphs into a chimpanzee. "Think smoking makes you look cool?" a voice asks. "No way." And finally, the tag line: "Think. Don't Smoke."

This 30-second TV commercial and six others are running nationally — paid for by Philip Morris USA as part of a \$100 million campaign, touted by the tobacco giant as a multifaceted effort to reduce teenage smoking.

Critics, however, question whether the nation's leading cigarette maker really wants to reduce teenage smoking or has simply launched a sophisticated public relations drive.

Philip Morris, they say, gains some subtle advantages with the campaign. The commercials — running on every major broadcast and cable network on youth-oriented shows — give Philip Morris its first presence on television since the tobacco industry agreed to stop TV advertising in 1971. The effort also gives the company a window into the attitudes of youngsters, age 10 to 14, whom the company recently has been probing in focus groups and other settings as it refines its message.

Some critics also point to the naming of Carolyn Levy to head the effort. Ms. Levy is a veteran Philip Morris researcher, who, according to internal industry documents, was involved in the com-

cigarettes with magazine, newspaper and billboard advertising, according to Competitive Media Reporting, which tracks such expenditures.

Much research has gone into honing Philip Morris's ad message, according to Ms. Levy, who said it gave children "credit for their ability to make good decisions." Her department consulted academic experts, questioned youngsters in focus groups and at shopping malls in 40 cities, surveyed parents and used a top ad agency, New York's Young & Rubicam Inc., which handles advertising for Philip Morris's Parliament brand, to produce the ads.

More than 93 percent of the youngsters interviewed said "our commercials told them not to smoke," Ms. Levy said.

While there is sharp disagreement on what anti-smoking message best motivates teenagers, the four states that have run their own ad campaigns — Arizona, California, Massachusetts and Florida — have gone with edgy, in-your-face commercials, often ones that vilify the tobacco industry or graphically portray smoking's adverse health effects.

Using focus groups of youths aged 12 to 16, a Chicago-area market research firm, hired by those states, recently tested state ads and two Philip Morris ads and found the industry ads "were clearly and consistently the weakest," according to Peter Zollo, president of Teenage Research Unlimited. "Some kids told us quite alarmingly that the Philip Morris message is: It is up to them whether they do or don't smoke," he said.

Other tobacco companies also have jumped on the youth anti-smoking issue. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. recently gave the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) a \$230,000 grant to develop a youth program. Since 1991, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. has funded a program to provide posters and other anti-smoking materials to schools. But none of the efforts has come close to the budget or visibility of Philip Morris.

The company will focus about \$75 million this year solely on its anti-smoking advertising, about 30 percent of the \$244 million it spent last year to sell

ment of the American landscape. It was thought to purify the air and, by putting lawns together without fences between houses, people created their own park. Such openness was considered public-minded, Mr. Teysot said.

Many Americans spend hundreds of hours a year in pursuit of a weedless patch of green.

For all the effort, fertilizer and pesticide poured onto the land (in pursuit of what a few dissenters consider an unnatural monocultural crop), four in five Americans are dissatisfied with their lawns.

Such lawn mania is, for the most part, a peculiarly American feature.

Yet, the American lawn as esthetic creation is little more than a century old, reports Smithsonian magazine. It quotes the landscape historian Georges Teysot, who has edited a book called "The American Lawn."

That lawn, Mr. Teysot said, is a hybrid of two traditions: the colonial garden, usually a small area where vegetables and flowers were grown, fenced to keep pigs and cattle out, and the aristocratic lawn, an impressive sweep of short grass that offered vistas to the mansion on a grand estate.

After the Civil War, the suburban lawn became the most recognizable ele-

ment of the American landscape. It was thought to purify the air and, by putting lawns together without fences between houses, people created their own park. Such openness was considered public-minded, Mr. Teysot said.

Many Americans spend hundreds of hours a year in pursuit of a weedless patch of green.

lowing complaints that some shows were too risqué.

The sales campaign sounds like a come-on for an exclusive new real estate development: "Overlooking the James River, it has one of the most spectacular views in Richmond," a radio commercial says. "Since the turn of the century, it has been a favorite spot for family outings. In the 1920s, it became one of the city's most popular Sunday drives." This quiet gated community is on the National Historical Register. Quiet indeed. The real estate on offer is in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia; it is the resting place of Presidents James Monroe and John Tyler and the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis.

Such aggressive advertising by a cemetery, which once would have seemed jolting, is no longer unusual, Kelly Smith, spokeswoman for the National Funeral Directors Association, told The Associated Press. "Businesses that provide funeral goods and services are learning that they have to rely more on conventional business advertising and less on their longevity, reputation and name recognition," she said.

Brian Knowlton

AMERICAN TOPICS

The Grass Is Never Greener

Americans spend at least as much on lawn care — an estimated total of \$30 billion a year — as they do on books. Lawns occupy more land than any other crop, including wheat and corn.

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Brian Knowlton

High Court Agrees to Hear Compulsory Campus Fees Case

Copied by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed on Monday to decide whether state universities can dedicate a portion of the activity fees collected from all students — even those who object — to subsidize groups that pursue political and ideological goals.

The justices said they would review rulings that barred the University of Wisconsin from using a portion of the activity fees it collects from every student to finance such groups.

A federal trial judge and an appeals court ruled that the subsidies unlawfully force some students to subsidize views they find objectionable. The lower courts barred the university from using fees collected from overjoyed students, ruling that to do so would

violate their free-speech rights.

In other cases, the court took these actions:

• It declined to revive an affirmative-action program once used by the Dallas Fire Department to promote more blacks, Hispanics and women. The justices let stand a ruling that struck down the program as discriminatory against white men.

• It refused in a Utah case to revive a reverse-discrimination challenge to a program that gives companies owned by disadvantaged people extra help in winning contracts for federal highway projects.

• It cleared the way for cities to decide what

prayers are said to open council meetings and to reject any that disparage other religious

views or are considered unacceptable. The high court rejected without any comment or dissent an appeal by Tom Snyder, who claimed his constitutional rights had been violated after he was prevented from offering his proposed prayer at a city council meeting in Murray City, Utah. The justices let stand a decision by a U.S. appeals court that the constitution does not require a legislative body to provide equal public access to everyone to recite prayers.

Several law students challenged the funneling of student-activity money to 18 organizations on the Madison campus.

"The forced funding of such organizations significantly adds to the burdening of the students' free-speech rights," a three-judge

panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year. It said the university "cannot use the allocable portion of objecting students' mandatory activity fees" to fund those organizations.

The appeals court's ruling did not shield objecting students from paying any activity fees, but gave them an opt-out privilege. They can identify the political or ideological groups they do not want to support and have their fees reduced on a prorated basis.

Among the groups objected to in the 1996 lawsuit against the university were Students of National Organization for Women, International Socialist Organization, Campus Lesbian Gay Bisexual Center and an AIDS support network.

(AP, Reuters)

Campus Activism, Again

Across U.S., Students Take Up Labor Cause

By Steven Greenhouse
New York Times Service

nancial muscle to bring about changes in manufacturing, even overseas.

Not everyone applauds the protests. Laura Vanderkam, a Princeton sophomore, said: "Who is a well-to-do Princeton student to say what a living wage is in Bangladesh or China? These workers may make above average wages for the area. And arbitrarily raising wages could cause layoffs."

Evidenced by protests at Harvard, Princeton and Johns Hopkins, another issue catching fire is wages for the lowest-paid campus workers, typically janitors and food workers. At the University of Virginia, students have joined with clergy and civil rights groups to argue that amid campus privilege, it is unfair that school employees earn \$6.50 an hour and need two jobs to get by.

POLITICAL NOTES

Republicans Split On NATO Strikes

WASHINGTON — As NATO continued air strikes in Serbia, Republican presidential candidates remain deeply divided over how their party should respond to the U.S. involvement.

While Republican leaders unanimously condemned President Bill Clinton's foreign policy in general, they sounded discordant tones last week over the intervention in Kosovo.

The views of the leading presidential contenders ranged from support for strong intervention and qualified backing for air strikes to denunciation of any involvement and avoidance of the issue entirely.

"They're all over the map, and certainly that reflects the fissure that exists in the Republican Party," said Thomas Moore of the Heritage Foundation.

Mr. Moore described the split as essentially between "nationalists," who represent the party's more isolationist wing, and "globalists," who want to maintain a leading U.S. role in world affairs. (WP)

Tipper Gore's Style

SACRAMENTO, California — Tipper Gore says that, while she is a friend and admirer of Hillary Rodham Clinton, she has her own style. That style is sure to be scrutinized as she becomes more visible during the 2000 presidential campaign.

"Anyone who finds herself in the role of first lady reflects her individuality and who she is as a person," Mrs. Gore said.

Mrs. Clinton is a key adviser in the White House; Mrs. Gore says she gives advice to her husband when asked, often at home or on walks.

Would she be a fixture in the Oval Office, offering advice? "I've never done it that way," she said. (AP)

Away From Politics

• A University of Alabama professor driving on Interstate 75 in Florida was killed by a 20- to 30-pound (9- to 14-kilogram) rock tossed from an overpass. Six to eight other cars were damaged by rocks thrown from three different overpasses during the weekend. (AP)

• The Mars Global Surveyor has successfully unfolded its high-gain antenna that had been retracted since the spacecraft was launched in November 1996. The dish-shaped antenna can transmit data to Earth and receive commands while the spacecraft's instruments continuously map the planet. (AP)

• Five anti-nuclear activists were arrested after entering the grounds of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in Pennsylvania to mark the 20th anniversary Sunday of America's worst commercial nuclear accident. (AP)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Beijing and EU Spar Over Rights Criticism

Tensions Grow at Asia-Europe Meeting

Compiled by Our Staff News Dispatchers

BERLIN — Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany rejected on Monday accusations by China that Europe was acting arrogantly by criticizing human rights abuses in Asia.

Opening the second Asia-Europe Meeting of foreign ministers, Mr. Fischer said that European Union nations had no interest in imposing Western values on Asian nations. But he said that improved human rights would promote peace and stability in Asia.

"An open discussion about human rights is needed," Mr. Fischer told the ministers from the 15 EU countries and 10 Asian nations. "It is neither intervention in domestic affairs nor Western arrogance when we in Europe point to the importance of human rights."

Mr. Fischer, speaking for the EU because Germany holds the Union's six-month rotating presidency, said the one-day foreign ministers meeting would not shy away from the issue of human rights.

"For me," he said, "the key lesson from the Asian crisis is: Good governance, based on human rights, the separation of power and a functioning, democratic legal and constitutional structure, as well as the protection of the environment, are the best basis for peace and successful economic development."

But the foreign ministers' gathering, the second since the Asia-Europe Meeting was started in 1996, is not expected to produce anything more binding than a communiqué.

"We are not in any way at all

trying to impose our values on others," said Mr. Fischer, who has become increasingly outspoken in his criticism of China's human rights record. "It is instead an effort to improve the implementation of international standards for human rights and to contribute to a peaceful and lasting development around the world and in Asia."

Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan of China rejected Mr. Fischer's criticism of human rights after the two met in Bonn on Friday, and he invited the German minister to visit China and see the conditions himself.

Mr. Fischer said Monday that he believed Asia's financial crisis had been worsened by a lack of respect for basic rights. Asian nations with a solid democratic foundation were hurt less by the crisis and were recovering faster than others, he said.

A separate meeting of foreign ministers from the EU and the Association of South East Asian Nations, originally set for Tuesday, was scrapped because the Union would not allow Burma to attend. The EU has long criticized Burma's human rights record.

At the Asia-Europe meeting, the ministers are to discuss Yugoslavia, Russia's economic and political development, the Koreas and Cambodia. They will also talk about the Asian financial crisis, the euro and the World Trade Organization.

Along with the 15 EU nations, the Asia-Europe Meeting includes China, Japan, South Korea, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

(Reuters, AFP)



From left, Tang Jiaxuan of China; Masna Hajah, head of Brunei's delegation; Joschka Fischer of Germany and Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen of Finland at the conference in Berlin on Monday.

Burma Dissident Stays Home to Mourn

Reuters

BANGKOK — The opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will not go to Britain for the funeral of her husband, Michael Aris, despite a government offer to allow the trip, an associate said Monday.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was worried she may not be allowed to return to Burma, and has already begun performing Buddhist rites for her late husband in Rangoon, said U Tin Oo, deputy chairman of her National League for Democracy.

Even though she is a devout Buddhist, she is definitely not leaving Rangoon to perform rites for her husband in Britain, U Tin Oo

said in a telephone interview from Rangoon. "She is performing Buddhist rites for him here," he said. "On the seventh day on Friday she will hold a major ceremony in her house."

Asked how Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was taking her husband's death, he said, "She is quite all right now but as a human being she is very much filled with regret and very sad about the death of her husband."

Mr. Aris, an Oxford academic, died Saturday, his 53rd birthday, of prostate cancer. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was unavailable for comment because her telephone is inaccessible from abroad.

The government said Friday it would allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to return to Rangoon if she went to Britain to see her terminally ill husband provided she did not politicize the visit. But Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had rejected the offer, the government said.

Analysts noted she had rejected the offer because she feared the military might not honor its pledge and might take action against her party if she were absent from the country.

The government again offered her assistance on Sunday to go to Britain for the funeral, but this time did not repeat its guarantee she could return after the trip.

Taiwan to Curb Visits to China

TAIPEI — Seeking to plug potential leaks of sensitive information to China, the government said Monday that it would require retired public servants who dealt with state secrets to obtain special permission before visiting the mainland.

Intelligence officials have recently warned that secrets can be leaked to China by retired officials and military officers — many of whom have business interests and family ties there.

The new regulations seem to confirm perceptions that the government questions the loyalty of some retired officials. Many of them are regarded as being alienated by moves here to elevate the strengthening of an independent Taiwanese identity over the goal of reunification with China.

Pyongyang Asks Help on POWs

TOKYO — North Korea urged the United States on Monday to take responsibility for repatriating prisoners of war in South Korea, saying that this would be "helpful" to its own efforts to find the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the Korean War.

The repatriation of North Korean prisoners of war is the responsibility of the United States under the armistice that

brought a truce in the Korean War in the 1950s, but Washington has ignored this, said a report carried by the official Korean Central News Agency that was monitored in Tokyo.

(Reuters)

Malaysia Warns Swine Industry

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia cautioned workers in the pig-rearing industry on Monday to wear eye goggles and plastic gloves as it battles two deadly viruses that have killed 64 people.

The Health Ministry announced a series of precautionary measures for pig farmers, slaughterhouse workers and truck drivers with pig cargoes in an effort to curb a viral encephalitis outbreak that has triggered a nationwide health scare.

The first fatality occurred in October.

(AP)

Beijing Mission

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's two ministers of defense will fly to China on Tuesday to discuss help in demobilizing their country's armed forces.

Defense Minister Tea Banh said that he and his co-minister, Prince Sisowath Sivirath, would hold high-level talks in Beijing.

Prime Minister Hun Sen reported after a visit to China in February that it had pledged \$1.5 million to aid demobilization.

(Reuters)

Toll Reaches 87 in India Quake

Police Fear More Victims in Himalayan Foothills Near China

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — A severe earthquake struck India's Himalayan foothills, toppling houses, causing landslides and killing at least 87 people, officials said.

Hundreds of road workers cleared away boulders and earth from one of four narrow roads leading to the towns and villages near the epicenter, which was 185 miles (300 kilometers) north of New Delhi. Helicopters evacuated the most serious of some 130 people injured.

India's seismological department said it was the strongest earthquake this century in the quake-prone mountains where the Indian Subcontinent meets the Asian land mass.

The 40-second quake jolted northern India just after midnight local time and had a magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter scale, powerful enough to be "severe and damaging," the department said.

Police said scores were injured and the number of victims was likely to rise. With telephone lines severed, reports of casualties and damage were incomplete nearly a day after the quake.

Aftershocks rumbled across the green

mountains in quick succession immediately afterward and later on Monday. Frightened people refused to stay in their homes for fear of another big tremor, said B.M. Vohra, the commissioner of the Delhi Dus district.

Mr. Vohra said authorities were dealing with an urgent need for tents and food. Four helicopters and 300 rescue workers, mostly policemen and soldiers, were called into service.

About 90 percent of the houses in the town of Chamoli were destroyed or badly damaged, he said. Twelve tent camps were set up in Chamoli to house survivors, said Yogenra Nanai, chief secretary of Uttral Pradesh, the state where the quake was centered.

The area is known as a seismic danger zone. The Himalayas, one of earth's youngest mountain ranges, are still growing and unstable. Big tremors have been recorded this century measuring more than magnitude 6. One quake in 1991, measuring 6.1, killed more than 1,000 people near the town of Uttarkashi.

The quake Monday was felt on the other side of the Chinese border, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, the Xinhua news agency said.

INTERNATIONAL

Israeli Workers End Their Strike

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A strike of public sector and government workers that paralyzed Israel ended Monday after all-night talks yielded an agreement between the Israeli government and the trade federation.

The compromise agreement between the Finance Ministry and the Histadrut Trade Federation grants the workers a 4.8 percent wage increase, 2.2 percent less than the workers' target of a 7 percent increase.

"After a long sleepless night of discussions with the workers' union, I am glad to say that we have reached a wage agreement," Finance Minister Meir Sheetrit said.

Hundreds of thousands of Israeli government and public workers began the nationwide strike last week. Mounds of garbage accumulated on the streets. Railroads were shutdown. Traffic at Ben-Gurion International Airport was disrupted. Hospitals were shut except for emergency services.

The public sector's collective bargaining agreement expired in September.

The Finance Ministry wants to cap the raises at 3.1 percent for the last three months in 1998 and an additional 0.7 percent for 1999. The Histadrut wants a wage increase of 7 percent for late 1998 and an additional 4 percent for 1999.

Hopes for Democracy As Rwandans Vote

Agence France-Presse

KIGALI, Rwanda — Rwandans gathered Monday in schools, stadiums and other public places to vote in the first elections since 1994, a poll seen by the authorities as a key step toward democracy.

In the poll that ends Wednesday, voters are due to elect a total of about 116,000 officials in Rwanda's 154 communes. The officials will make up local 10-member executive councils.

None of the candidates represents any political party, and there has been no electoral campaign. Officials have presented the vote as a move toward "participatory democracy" in a country still reeling from the mass slaughter of more than half a million minority Tutsi and moderate Hutu in 1994.

Paul Kagame, who seized power that year, set up a national unity government that included both Tutsi and Hutu, but the genocide left the judicial structure and much of its administration devastated.

Saddam Half-Brother Said to Be Interrogated

CAIRO — Barzan Tikriti, a half-brother of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, was interrogated in Iraq after one of his assistants fled the country and joined an opposition group, an Arabic newspaper reported Monday.

Two former ministers, three retired generals and members of the ruling Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party who met Mr. Barzan after his return to Baghdad from a diplomatic posting in Geneva last year also were interrogated, the London-based newspaper Al Hayat said.

It said official Iraqi sources denied claims of Mr. Barzan's interrogation and said he "will have the opportunity to play a major role" in Iraqi politics. Iraqi officials were not available for comment.

Mr. Barzan, who served as Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva for a decade, was recalled last summer in a diplomatic reshuffle ordered by Mr. Saddam. About two dozen other diplomats were also recalled.

Ethiopian War Claims Denied by Eritrea

NAIROBI — The Eritrean government Monday denied an Ethiopian claim that its troops had killed, wounded or captured 45,000 of Asmara's soldiers in their war since the end of February.

An Ethiopian statement issued Sunday said that "more than 45,000 enemy troops have been killed, wounded or captured," while "77 tanks have been destroyed" and 19 tanks have been captured.

An Eritrean official said that "these figures are completely forged," according to Eritrea's ERINA news agency in a dispatch received here.

For the Record

William Baez, the president of the Nicaraguan Development Institute, has asked the U.S. Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, to help speed approval of a \$956 million aid package for nations devastated by a recent hurricane.

(AP)

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On the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Hassan II, the National U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce takes pride in the bipartisan demonstration of support by undersigned US members of Congress and endorsed by J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in recognition of the enduring friendship and economic cooperation which binds the United States of America with the Kingdom of Morocco, the first country to recognize American independence.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

STATEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

The United States and Morocco share an uninterrupted period of friendship starting with Morocco being the first nation to recognize the Independence of the United States of America and to have signed in 1787 a treaty of friendship and cooperation, the first of its kind concluded by the young Republic.

The United States and Morocco continue to share common values of liberty, democracy and peace as well as common interests and goals in global security, particularly in Africa, the Middle East and the Mediterranean region.

The continued maintenance of stability in the Magreb region and its environs, depends in great measure on the capacity of Morocco to continue to function as a stable and free country for all its people, advocating modernity and progress while being respectful to its own culture and heritage.

Under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II, Morocco has repeatedly demonstrated its resolve to foster the advancement of justice, democracy and human rights nationally and through its role in the international community.

We the undersigned members of the United States Congress hereby establish

“FRIENDS OF MOROCCO IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS”

For the following purposes:

- The continued enhancement of awareness of the particular role Morocco and its Sovereign His Majesty King Hassan II have played and can continue to play in the Middle East peace process stemming from first bringing the parties together to Morocco's role in hosting the first Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca in 1994
- The continued promotion of goodwill and understanding between our two nations through increased contact between respective parliaments with the view to heighten the strides that our two nations have made in unison aimed at the promotion of regional peace and stability on the foundation of tolerance and human dignity for all.
- The continued expansion of trade and investment between our two nations based on the realization of the unique advantages Morocco offers in tourism, industry and natural resources, and on the great opportunities it offers for American products, franchises and other commercial ties with the region.
- The continued expansion of cultural exchange between academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and through visits by scholars, political leaders and the media.

Nicholas V. Lampson, Congressman; Carolyn Kilpatrick, Member of Congress; Alcee Hastings, Member of Congress; Peter Deutsch, Member of Congress; Thomas M. Davis III, Member of Congress; Sonny Callahan, Member of Congress; Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Member of Congress; James Hansen, Member of Congress; Tillie Fowler, Member of Congress; Dana Rohrabacher, Member of Congress; Nick J. Rahall II, Member of Congress; Joe Knollenberg, Member of Congress; John E. Sununu, Member of Congress; Dennis Kucinich, Member of Congress; Christopher John, Member of Congress; Dave Camp, Member of Congress; Maurice Hinchley, Member of Congress.

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

No to Three Gorges Dam

In China, where even a slight relaxation in suppression of debate can indicate a softening of official policy, it is encouraging that some publications have cast an increasingly critical eye on the Three Gorges Dam being built on the Yangtze River.

The official line is that there is no turning back on a project that will destroy one of the world's great scenic areas, inundate hundreds of archaeological sites and force 1.3 million people to resettle elsewhere when the dam's 640-kilometer reservoir floods towns and farmlands. But the insoluble social, environmental and technical problems that have plagued the project cannot be wished away, and they may now be getting some consideration.

The dam has been a matter of internal disagreement within the Communist Party for some time. As far back as 1956, a vice minister of electric power, Li Rui, produced a report arguing for smaller dams on tributaries of the Yangtze rather than a 180-meters-behemoth at the Three Gorges. In 1992, when the final vote to approve the Three Gorges project was taken in the National People's Congress, a third of the delegates abstained or voted against it, even though the dam was championed by Li Peng, who was then prime minister.

But all public debate on the project has been banned since the Tiananmen demonstrations in 1989. So it is noteworthy that the Chinese journal *Strategy and Management*, a publication with some links to the government, printed an article by a scholar under a pseudonym detailing the failure of resettlement efforts so far, and the extreme problems of relocating hundreds of thousands of people to steep hillsides that are barely habitable.

In February, the People's Daily, the party-controlled paper, ran articles on engineering issues and problems with excavating cultural relics that would be

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Inhumanity in Rangoon

Every now and then a single, sad event can pierce the fog of everyday distractions and illuminate, for all of us, the true nature of something or someone that has been in plain sight all along. Such a moment is provided by the untimely death on Saturday of Michael Aris, 53, a respected Oxford University professor of Tibetan studies. The instructive event was the refusal by Burma's dictators to provide a visa to Mr. Aris to visit his wife before he died. What is illuminated is the heartlessness, the sheer brutal stupidity, of that nation's military rulers.

Of course, for the 48 million people who have the misfortune to be ruled by Burma's junta, as well as for their friends around the world, this is not a revelation. Any number of people could testify to the evil of the regime: the families of students shot dead for taking part in peaceful demonstrations; the admirers of the Belgian honorary consul who died in jail for the crime of owning a facsimile machine; the thousands of political prisoners who have suffered, or suffer today, in the notorious Insein Prison; the tens of thousands of innocent peasants who have been pressed into slave labor.

But the names of most of those victims, both unwitting and courageously witting, never will be known to most of us. We do know, however, the name of Aung San Suu Kyi, Mr. Aris's wife—widow, now—and the rightful ruler of Burma. She and Mr. Aris met as students at Oxford long ago; they raised two sons, both now in their twenties; they held fast to a loving marriage against long odds. As devoted a wife and mother as she was, Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, felt that

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

'Emergency' With Iran

You may not have heard, but the United States is in a state of national emergency with Iran. Several days ago President Bill Clinton informed Congress that he was again declaring a state of emergency, for the fourth year in a row. You haven't heard about it because no one—including, presumably, the president—actually believes that such an emergency exists.

Instead, the declaration is a self-perpetuating bureaucratic fiction that is legally necessary to justify an elaborate

—Gary Sick, commenting in *The Washington Post*.

array of sanctions against Iran. These sanctions are increasingly irrelevant and blind Americans to the truth about how much Iran has changed.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced last June that the U.S. objective with Iran is to develop "a road map leading to normal relations." But there is a strange disconnect between America's words and its actions. While U.S. officials speak in a new tone of voice, all the elements of the old containment policy remain in place.

—Gary Sick, commenting in *The Washington Post*.

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—Gary Sick, commenting in *The Washington Post*.

Toward Privatization of China's Communist Party

By Thomas L. Friedman

SHANGHAI — Visiting Shanghai is always a useful reminder of how frozen outsiders' perceptions of China are today, and how far reality has moved here.

To talk to Chinese is to understand that a "new deal" has been forged in the past decade between the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people. It is a messy, cynical, pragmatic deal, but it is the central political reality of China today, and it explains why America is winning here, not losing.

In December, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, who is considered neutral on the project, raised concerns about the project's safety and suggested that it might be necessary to bring in international experts to monitor the engineering. Li Peng, who now heads the National People's Congress, is expected to fight any retreat on the project. But the thaw in repression of criticism suggests that altering and even halting the project may yet be possible.

That is why it is crucial for American financial institutions to refrain from underwriting bonds for Chinese entities, like the State Development Bank, which finance construction of the dam. China cannot finance the dam, which is expected to cost well over \$25 billion, without foreign capital. The U.S. Export-Import Bank and the World Bank have refused to support the project because of its disastrous environmental and social consequences.

The world is beginning to change its views on large dams. The World Bank has sponsored creation of the independent World Commission on Dams to assess the effectiveness of such projects and alternatives, with a report due next year. Major dams have been stopped in midconstruction in Malaysia, India and Eastern Europe when the governments found that the benefits were uncertain and the costs enormous.

The Three Gorges Dam is a throwback to failed development strategies of decades past. This is an important moment to show China's leaders that the international community wants no part of this destructive, garrulous project.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

party will insist on only two things — that you dare not challenge its authority, and that you have only one child.

This new deal, and the flourishing of personal freedoms it delivered, help explain some of the internal stability of the past decade.

In 1989, many Chinese who took to the streets at Tiananmen, or passively supported it, came from homes with a bare lightbulb swinging from the ceiling, no television, no telephone, one Mao outfit and no prospects to improve their lives. That is not the case today.

I participated in a seminar at Shanghai's Fudan University, and was particularly struck by a professor who said: "We need a country in the world, like America, that has a dream to be perfect. And when America is telling China that it is violating basic human rights, we should admit that we have human rights problems. But today's China is better than yesterday's China. We have a way to improve. We feel our lives are better today, and we are not wrong."

The combination of rising incomes, rising opportunities and greater per-

sonal freedom has enabled the Communist Party to rule not only by repression but with the passive assent of China's silent majority. The party has bought itself some time.

But how much? That will depend in part on the government's ability to keep incomes and opportunities rising. If it stumbles, it is going to have to share power sooner.

But it will also depend on a new factor — the information revolution that is sweeping China. At the university and elite levels the Internet is now pervasive, and at the mass level there has been an entertainment revolution in the past two years, with the spread of cheap video compact disk players. Virtually every Hollywood film has been pirated here, and they are now being viewed everywhere in China. As a result, the gap between the Communist Party and the rest of China is growing wider and wider. The party is frozen and the country is running away from it.

Graham Barnard, who runs a booming Shanghai business designing Web pages, has been in China for more than 20 years. He remarked to me: "I was recently out visiting the Hope Group, which is a major grain company and the

largest private company in China. I was meeting with the chairman and there were two other people sitting there. I asked him about the company's relationship with the Communist Party.

"He pointed to the two guys sitting there and said, 'They are both Communist Party members, and my aim is to make them millionaires in two years.'"

No one knows how the political transition is going to happen here. But I do know that everything from American contract law to accounting standards to calm messages is now winning here more each day.

America should keep hammering China on human rights and international norms. The Chinese leadership needs to hear that. But what driving change here is the educational, commercial, entertainment and Internet interactions between millions of Chinese and the outside world, and that must never be aborted.

In Russia, the Communist Party tried to privatize Russian society and it failed. In China — if we are lucky — the Chinese people will privatize the Communist Party.

The New York Times.

Talking Up a Supposed Chinese Menace Is a Bad American Habit

By Gregory Clark

TOKYO — Memories are

short. Robert McNamara, the former U.S. secretary of defense and architect of much Vietnam War strategy, has only just finished telling us a mistakenly fearful view of Chinese intentions during the early 1960s was the main reason for the mistaken U.S. involvement in Indochina later.

Now already the United States and some of its allies, Japan included, are girding up for yet another bout of Asian military confrontation, with China once again being

blamed for the island's right to use force to prevent the island from claiming independence.

This is a right that many nations claim, even when breakaway territories are ethnically or culturally very different from themselves. In the case of Taiwan, almost the entire population is ethnically and culturally Chinese, and the Taiwan authorities themselves long went out of their way to emphasize that they were indeed part of China.

Much is made of China's obvious desire to join the ranks of the world's top nuclear powers. Few seem to recall that China in the 1950s, when it lacked nuclear weapons, was three times the recipient of nuclear threats from the United States: once during the Korean War, where China's right to intervene was not entirely clear, and twice over islands in the Taiwan Strait that clearly do belong to China.

The scenario for typically lopsided tit-for-tat Cold-War logic is now in place: Beijing strengthens its Taiwan Strait missile defenses, this is used to justify the installing of more missiles by the United States and Japan, which in turn pushes China further into hard-line defensive policies.

Many in the West seem to justify this kind of pushiness on the grounds that our hearts and values are pure and theirs are not. But such claims are dangerous. The other side may come to think that it has an equal claim to moral superiority.

Western democracy is supposed to emphasize tolerance for other opinions. But when Chinese in Singapore and elsewhere say that in their opinion their system of benevolent but

strong central control operates better than Western-style democracy, the West seems to forget tolerance.

One weakness of the democratic system is the ease with which political parties can exploit alleged foreign threats to gain domestic support. Drag in the name of China — the big, inscrutable dragon of the western Pacific — and things swing even more in your favor.

The Republicans played the China-threat card to good democratic effect but tragic foreign results in the 1950s and '60s. Bill Clinton tried it in his 1992 campaign against the Republicans. Now the wheel has turned full circle, with the Republicans back on the attack.

It is time to remember the McNamara warning.

The writer, a former Australian diplomat and author of *"In Fear of China,"* published in 1987, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Pity the Lonely Superpower That Can't Do Much Alone

By Samuel P. Huntington

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — American officials quite naturally tend to act as if the world were unipolar. They boast of American power and American virtue, hailing the United States as a benevolent hegemon. They lecture other countries on the universal validity of American principles, practices and institutions.

At the 1997 summit of the Group of Seven in Denver, President Bill Clinton boasted about the success of the American economy as a model for others. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has called the United States "the indispensable nation" and said that many nations claim, even when breakaway territories are ethnically or culturally very different from themselves. In the case of Taiwan, almost the entire population is ethnically and culturally Chinese, and the Taiwan authorities themselves long went out of their way to emphasize that they were indeed part of China.

This latter statement is true in the narrow sense that the United States is an indispensable participant in any effort to tackle major global problems. It is false in also implying that other nations are dispensable, since the United States needs the cooperation of some major countries in handling any issue, and that American indispensability is the source of wisdom.

The demonizing of leaders has also failed to shorten their tenure in power, from Fidel Castro (who has survived eight American presidents) to Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein. Indeed, the best way for a dictator of a small country to prolong his tenure in power may be to provoke the United States into denouncing him as the leader of a "rogue regime" and a threat to global peace.

Neither the Clinton administration nor Congress nor the American public is willing to pay the costs and accept the risks of unilateral global leadership.

Some advocates of American leadership argue for increasing defense expenditures by 50 percent, but that is a nonstarter. The American public clearly sees no need to expand effort and resources to achieve American hegemony. However much foreign policy elites may ignore or deplore it, the United States lacks the domestic political base to create a unipolar world.

American leaders repeatedly make threats, promise action and fail to deliver. The result is a foreign policy of rhetoric and retreat, and a growing reputation as a hollow hegemon.

Sanctions work, however, only when other countries also support them, and that is decreasingly the case. Hence, the United States either applies them unilaterally, to the detriment of its economic interests and its relations with its allies, or it does not enforce them, in which case they become symbols of American weakness.

At relatively low cost, the United States can launch bombing or cruise missile attacks against its enemies. By themselves, however, such actions achieve little. More serious military interventions have to meet three conditions: they have to be legitimized through some international organization such as the United Nations, where they are subject to Russian, Chinese or French veto; they also require the participation of allied forces, which may or may not be forthcoming; and they have to involve no American casualties and virtually no "collateral" casualties.

Even if the United States meets all three conditions, it risks stirring up not only criti-

short of being the global international community.

On issue after issue, the United States has found itself alone, with one or a few partners, opposing most of the rest of the world's states and peoples. These issues include UN dues, the land mines treaty, global warming, an international war crimes tribunal, the Middle East, use of force against Iraq and Yugoslavia, sanctions against Cuba, Iran, Iraq and Libya.

On such issues, much of the international community is on one side and the United States is on the other. The circle of governments which see their interests coinciding with American interests is shrinking.

While America regularly denounces various countries as "rogue states," in the eyes of many countries it is becoming the rogue superpower.

If a unipolar world were unavoidable, many countries might prefer the United States as the hegemon. But this is mostly because it is distant from them and hence unlikely to attempt to acquire any of their territory.

American power is also valued by the secondary regional states as a constraint on the dominance of other major regional states. Benign hegemony, however, is in the eye of the hegemon.

"One reads about the 'world's desire for American leadership only in the United States,'" a British diplomat observed. "Everywhere else one reads about American arrogance and unilateralism."

Political and intellectual leaders in most countries strongly resist the prospect of a unipolar world and favor the emergence of true multipolarity.

In acting as if this were a unipolar world, the United States is also becoming increasingly alone in the world. American leaders constantly claim to be speaking on behalf of "the international community." But whom do they have in mind? China? Russia? India? Pakistan? Iran? The Arab world? The Association of Southeast Asian Nations? Africa? Latin America? France? Do any of these countries or regions see the United States as the spokesman for a community of which they are a part?

The community for which the United States speaks includes, at best, its Anglo-Saxon cousins (Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) on most issues, Germany and some smaller European democracies on many issues, Israel on some Middle Eastern questions, and Japan on the implementation of UN resolutions. These are important states, but they fall far

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INTERNATIONAL

Alliance Fears That Refugees May Foster Instability

By William Drozdak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — As NATO planes carry out nearly continuous assaults against Yugoslavia, the Western alliance faces a grave new challenge: How to prevent a wave of ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo from destabilizing the fragile governments of Albania and Macedonia — and possibly the rest of southeastern Europe.

NATO has long feared that instability in Macedonia, a former republic of Yugoslavia and now an independent country, would trigger a scramble by its neighbors to grab chunks of territory they have long claimed.

More than 400,000 Albanians live in Macedonia's western borderlands, prompting concerns that they might move to join a "greater Albania" encompassing Kosovo and Albania proper.

Greece has contested even the legitimacy of Macedonia's name because of lingering border disputes.

Bulgaria, which abuts both countries, also contains a volatile ethnic mixture that could explode if present borders crumble.

Most of all, NATO officials fear that any Balkan upheaval involving Greece would inevitably draw in its arch-rival, Turkey, pitting two NATO militaries against each other.

So far, NATO's response to the growing humanitarian crisis has been to ratchet up the level of bombing and embark on a second phase that will emphasize targets related to the Yugoslav crackdown in Kosovo.

Allied commanders said the primary sites to be struck over the next few days would include command and control centers and supply and ammunition dumps, as well as Yugoslav tanks and troop concentrations in Kosovo.

But there are signs of fresh tensions between NATO military and political leaders over how to conduct the bombing campaign in a way that would address the humanitarian crisis more directly.

General Wesley Clark, NATO's supreme commander and the man who is orchestrating the air campaign, has said he needed many more than 400 aircraft to carry out an effective bombing campaign to thwart Yugoslav operations in the field and not just decimate air defenses, according to NATO sources. Several allied governments, including the United States, have pledged to send at least two dozen more aircraft that could provide the kind of close air support that is needed to hamper ground actions.

"If you want to stop what looks like genocide with just air power, you are going to need a lot more firepower so that you can go in hard and fast," said a senior NATO commander.

"But that also involves some risks that we must be prepared to take if we want to achieve our goals."

When the United States and its European allies launched the bombing campaign last week, leaders on both sides of the Atlantic justified the action as necessary to prevent the crisis in Kosovo from spilling across international borders.

Now, political and military leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization seem to refute arguments that the air strikes — far from deterring President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia from waging a scorched-earth campaign through Kosovo — have only intensified the misery and accelerated the exodus of ethnic Albanians, contributing to the very catastrophe that their policy was supposed to prevent.

"Whether we bomb or not, Milosevic would have done this," General Clark said in a phone interview.

"There was clearly a long-term plan worked out many months ago. We saw preparations well under way even before last month's peace negotiations, and they swung into high gear within the past two weeks."

In Macedonia, where 12,000 alliance troops originally destined to serve as Kosovo peacekeepers have been based, the government has demanded full NATO protection against any Yugoslav attacks or attempts to disrupt a delicate ethnic balance that includes Muslim Albanians and Orthodox Christian Serbs.

Senior U.S. officials said they had concluded beyond any doubt that violent demonstrations next week at the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia's capital, were organized and conducted by an ethnic Serb party acting on orders from Belgrade.

"This was vintage Milosevic," said an American official with extensive experience in the region.

Some military strategists believe that the alliance needs to take more drastic action by considering the use of special operations forces that could be flown in by helicopter to attack the Serb paramilitary forces that are conducting the worst atrocities.

But that step is a giant leap for politicians fearful of public outcry against sending ground troops into the Balkans. Kosovo's treacherous terrain and landlocked location make the logistical difficulties of sending in ground forces too immense to bear serious consideration, many military analysts say.

"Our best bet is to pray for good weather, bop their air defenses have been knocked out to a significant degree and send in attack helicopters and low-flying aircraft that can blast the hell out of these war criminals," a NATO official said.

"It would be too unrealistic, for both political and military reasons, to ask anything more."



A Muslim and her grandson who fled the Serbian region of Sanjak, where they feared reprisals, arriving at a Sarajevo bus station on Monday.

NATO: Air War Will Be Long, Clark Warns

Continued from Page 1

cards." The Primakov visit was not suggested by Washington, Mr. Rubin said.

NATO turned the thrust of its air strikes Monday against Serb troops and paramilitary police units in Kosovo in a race against time as "ethnic cleansing" intensified.

Amid reports of the executions of five prominent Kosovars, including a top adviser to Ibrahim Rugova, the leading representative of the province's ethnic Albanian majority, the alliance said on the sixth day of bombing that it was trying to block a Serbian sweep on the province's future. Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and Mr. Chirac both broadcast messages stressing that NATO had full backing from all 19 member states to continue the air war.

Although Mr. Chirac has encouraged Russia's diplomatic overture to Belgrade, Paris would not approve of any deal that fell short of the alliance's demands on Kosovo, including an international peacekeeping force. French officials said, "The only compromise being weighed in Paris concerns a large role for Russian troops in the international peacekeeping force planned for postwar Kosovo." That idea, Chirac aides suggested, might help Moscow to get Mr. Milosevic to comply — and again involve Russia directly in the international quest for stability in the Balkans.

But Mr. Blair said that "the NATO campaign has to intensify, targeted on the military capability that Milosevic is using to carry out these acts of barbarity in Kosovo." Speaking in a broadcast carried by the Serbian-language service of the BBC, Mr. Blair said that the Serbian people would not support Mr. Milosevic if they knew what he was doing in their name.

"We have to see it through," Mr. Blair said, echoing the NATO officials' statements that the allied campaign was on schedule in what Mr. Shea called "a methodical, systematic and programmed" plan to strip the Serb leadership of its military capabilities.

Mr. Shea said the atrocities reported by ethnic Albanian refugees, together with satellite intelligence showing Kosovo towns emptied of their inhabitants and burning, was graphic evidence of "who has been the victim and who the victimizer" in Kosovo.

Mr. Shea, amplifying his earlier comment that 500,000 Kosovars had been displaced during the last year by fighting in the province, said that the exodus had reached 4,000 people an hour on the Albanian border.

Mounting evidence of Serbian war crimes and atrocities in Kosovo provided a grim service for allied leaders, graphically driving home the case for NATO intervention, but some Western officials acknowledged privately Monday that the alliance faced mounting moral pressure to get results fast and live up to the humanitarian rationale used to launch the air war.

Still, there was no public indication that any NATO country was ready to send ground forces into Kosovo.

"We are moving heaven and earth to get in there," Commodore Digby said, referring to NATO's efforts to target Serbian troops and equipment in Kosovo as the Serbian air defenses are knocked out over ever-widening areas of the former Yugoslavia — in Kosovo, Serbia and in Montenegro, the republic that is Serbia's partner in the Yugoslav federation and which guards Serbia's access to the Adriatic Sea.

Many Montenegrin leaders fear invasion by Serbian forces as Mr. Milosevic lashes out, but Western officials have issued blunt warnings that any such Serbian action would trigger even wider NATO reprisals — perhaps including air raids on government ministries in Belgrade, untouched in the air war thus far.

NATO officials dodged the question when asked Monday whether General Clark had voted a plan for air strikes against the Interior Ministry. The ministry is thought to be masterminding the Serbian terror campaign in Kosovo.

"Thousands of other refugees have streamed into Macedonia, — also once part of Yugoslavia — causing increased tension there, including violent demonstrations against the U.S. Embassy.

Most of the refugees were women, children and old people. European officials said they did not know whether the men of fighting age might have slipped into the forest, joined rebel bands or, perhaps, met a fate that one described as "somewhat worse than that."

Once the last Stalinist bastion of the Eastern bloc under the dictator Enver Hoxha, Albania of late has slid into anarchy and is ill-equipped to help its fleeing ethnic brethren. What little order there was dissolved a few years back in widespread anti-government rioting over a failed nationwide investment scheme that saw most of the army's weapons looted, up to and including tanks. Roads have crumbled, gangsters are the major force in what there is of the economy and, Western officials here say, there is virtually no infrastructure.

The government held an emergency

Bombs Undo Belgrade's Urban Poise

Anger, Beer and Fear Send Crowds of Youths on Anti-NATO Rampage

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — Along Belgrade's loveliest shopping street, Knez Mihajlova, groups of young men filled with chauvinism, anger, beer and fear completed the trashing Monday of the American Center, the British Council, the Goethe Institute and the French Cultural Center, as scattered policemen watched and chatted among themselves.

The impact of the stones shattering the windows seemed in rhythm with the sounds of another patriotic concert in the city center, headlined by Ceca Raznatovic, wife of the notorious Serbian paramilitary leader Zeljko Raznatovic, known as Arkan.

"Ceca" was famous, a Serbian cheer, before she married Arkan, a proud pioneer of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. But she has taken to doing music videos with a live tiger cub, a reference to the name of Arkan's brigades, the Tigers.

As ordinary Belgraders walked by, or stood to watch the destruction, the young stone throwers spray-painted obscene graffiti on the walls, comparing NATO to the Nazis and making snide references to President Bill Clinton's sex life.

Like many of the passersby, they wore the "target" logo that has swept the city like the flu, a gesture of ironic contempt toward NATO's bombs, a gesture made more palatable by the fact that no NATO bombs have struck the populated center of the capital.

"I'm ashamed to see this," said Zadina, a medical doctor dressed in a fashionable, pale beige suit. "But you know the bombs have made people crazy. They crack the veneer of civility, as if war excuses anything."

She laughed then, saying: "Anyway, they are bored with being down in the shelters, with the grannies."

Belgrade is a city where people say "ciao" and drink espresso, judge the latest Hollywood movies with asperity and surf the net. But the war is dragging it further from Europe into isolation, uniting the Serbs behind their soldiers, their Kosovo and even President Slobodan Milosevic.

American movies are gone from the theaters as unpatriotic, even if the "Original Levi's Store" across from the American Center was left untrashed by the mobs.

"People used to say that only God could unify the Serbs," said Aleksa Djilas, the historian son of the late Milovan Djilas, who was the most famous dissident of the Tito period. "But now they've been unified from heaven, but

by the bombs, not by God."

"No one really feels they deserve to be bombed," Mr. Djilas said, "even if they know that Milosevic's policies have played a big role."

At the same time, the regime has urged citizens to run to the air raid shelters for 12 or 15 hours a day, understanding that the collective panic will also provide a sense of solidarity with the nation and its military.

"But if you refuse to go down, or say that there is no point in it, people get very angry," said Ilija, a former journalist in his 50s. "People think you're challenging their plight or somehow saying that it's right that they're sitting in a shelter."

There is much more suspicion around with rumors of Western spies and local dissidents planting "locator" or radar guidance devices, in ensure that NATO's bombs find their targets. Some Serbs insist, conversely, that such "locators" have been planted in the hotels where journalists are staying, but designed not to guide the bombs, but deflect them.

And the city authorities, while deciding what is safer to keep Belgrade's street lights on, still insist that curtains be drawn after 6 P.M., as if NATO's modern weapons still depended on illuminated living rooms to find their targets.

Still, as Yugoslavia faces its sixth day of bombing without major civilian casualties, people are becoming injured to the sharp wall of the sirens. Fewer spend all night in the shelters, but there is little else to do, with nearly all the restaurants, bars, cafes and movie theaters shutting down at dusk.

"There is a deepening sense of boredom — the war is really very boring, especially with this monotonous war propaganda on the news," said a cosmopolitan Serb who asked not to be identified. "My son is bored; he can't go out, except to visit friends in their shelters, where it's boring; my little one is bored, because all her favorite cartoons like Power Rangers have been replaced by these interminable news programs."

So people are renting armfuls of videos, especially comedies, like "You've Got Mail."

Yet the Serbs remain resourceful and ironic. A basement cafe downtown has renamed itself "the Shelter Cafe," offering satellite television along with coffee and drinks. A placard put up in window along Knez Mihajlova reads: "F-117A. Crashed. Low mileage. Foreign license plates. Cheap. Call after 4 P.M."

ALBANIA: Refugees Threaten to Overwhelm Poor Nation

Continued from Page 1

Nuhi Mazreku, a 46-year-old schoolteacher from Manisheva, said Serbs in his village had methodically broken all the baby carriages they could find.

"It's not a pleasant story," said Eugene O'Sullivan, head of the European security organization's observer mission in Kukes. "A lot of them got a knock on the door in the morning and were told to leave."

"It depended on who was doing the ethnic cleansing," he said. "Some were given an hour or so to get their things together. Others were not so lucky. They were just told to go."

"There was a final vetting at the border, where they were taking necklaces and rings from the ladies, and stereos and the better cars," Mr. O'Sullivan continued. "There is a consistency going through these stories that while we can't independently confirm them, it seems impossible to be made up."

Mr. O'Sullivan said the final step in the exodus of the ethnic Albanians had been the confiscation by Serbs of their passports, identity papers and even license plates, "so these people no longer exist as far as they are concerned." Accounts from refugees agreed.

"I think this is particularly evil," Mr. O'Sullivan, who has served with international agencies in Africa and Bosnia, said by mobile phone. "It's very difficult to see how this can be stopped."

European observers near the border could see villages in flames, including Orahovac, a major settlement in the agricultural region northwest of Prizren, the area that appeared to be home to most of the refugees.

The chief representative of the rebel Kosovars here — Ilaiz Ramajli, with an office in the diplomatic quarter of this ramshackle capital — said he had reports of a column of refugees some eight kilometers (five miles) long on the way to Montenegro from Pec. Montenegro is the last state still allied with Serbia in what is left of the former Yugoslavia, but has been showing increasing signs of independence from Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader.

Thousands of other refugees have streamed into Macedonia, — also once part of Yugoslavia — causing increased tension there, including violent demonstrations against the U.S. Embassy.

Most of the refugees were women, children and old people. European officials said they did not know whether the men of fighting age might have slipped into the forest, joined rebel bands or, perhaps, met a fate that one described as "somewhat worse than that."

Once the last Stalinist bastion of the Eastern bloc under the dictator Enver Hoxha, Albania of late has slid into anarchy and is ill-equipped to help its fleeing ethnic brethren. What little order there was dissolved a few years back in widespread anti-government rioting over a failed nationwide investment scheme that saw most of the army's weapons looted, up to and including tanks. Roads have crumbled, gangsters are the major force in what there is of the economy and, Western officials here say, there is virtually no infrastructure.

The government held an emergency

With cigarettes so scarce, people joke, the war is superb opportunity to quit smoking.

Some of the mockery is cruder and more angry.

A funeral notice featured Mr. Clinton and said he would be buried alongside others "in charge of destroying civilization," like Hitler, Napoleon, Mussolini and Ante Pavelic, the fascist Croat leader during World War II. Mr. Clinton is survived, the notice said, "by his wife Hillary, daughter Chelsea, mom, dad, dog, necktie, friend Monica and lots of Tomahawks and radio locators and a big family of NATO rats."

But in the most important way, perhaps, the Milosevic regime, through its censorship of the media, has isolated Belgrade and the rest of Serbia proper from the real war going on to the south, in Kosovo.

While state television shows careful film of NATO damage, there is little effort to discuss the activities of the Serb military and security forces there. While Western politicians and human rights officials are making harsh accusations of atrocities, murders and ethnic cleansing of the ethnic Albanian population, Serbs are informed that their forces are simply responding to terrorism of the Kosovo Liberation Army and its sympathizers.

That view got considerable support from Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, who said in Moscow that "armed Albanian extremists have unleashed a major offensive against the Serbs across practically the entire territory of Kosovo."

Only a day before he arrives with Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov to talk to Mr. Milosevic about a diplomatic solution to the conflict, Mr. Ivanov laid Western charges of Serb atrocities "war propaganda."

The rumors of a growing genocide against the ethnic Albanians are being put about to justify NATO action," he said, then added: "The real genocide in Kosovo is happening as a result of the NATO action."

Mr. Djilas said he considered the Primakov visit as a way for President Boris Yeltsin to deal with fierce domestic criticism of NATO and doubted that it would produce anything substantive.

But it would also add to what Zoran Djindjic, the leader of the Democratic Party here, called the "mental filters of censorship and self-censorship" that protect ordinary people from the reality of atrocity.

"The essence of Milosevic's system is that no one knows anything," said Mr. Djindjic.

At the offices of the UN High Commission for Refugees, the main relief agency, Jim Worrall, the field coordinator, struggled to pull together tents, mattresses, beds and the trucks to deliver them.

"The infrastructure here is nonexistent; a large influx is going to create problems," he said. "We'll never get enough stuff up there. It's a day up, a day to unload, a day back. I dispatched trucks this morning. I don't know when I'll see them again."

The difficulties were compounded, he added, because just at the time the aid agencies were meeting to evaluate needs for this year, the U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke appeared to have made a peace agreement with Mr. Milosevic.

"Everybody was hoping for a political settlement," he said.



Japan's Discount Fever, U.S. Style

Tokyo Gets Delirious Over Outlet Warehouses

By Kaori Shoji

TOKYO — The Japanese may not believe that shopping cures all, but most will say it comes pretty close. Even the government, convinced that a collective shopping spree was imperative to boost the nation's long-suffering economy, issued monetary coupons to every household with children under 15 years of age — 20,000 yen a child. The Japanese shopper is now being paid to shop. And look lively about it too, since the coupons were valid for only six months.

Not that they needed prompting in the first place. Consider the long lines that form within minutes all over Tokyo, whether at the counter of Fauchon's bakery or in front of Israeli street vendors displaying hand-crafted necklaces; inside the hushed confines of a Prada boutique or the Muzak-blaring aisles of a 100-yen shop, everything on the shelves going for 100 yen flat, about 85 cents.

When the new Takashimaya Department Store, otherwise known as the world's largest luxury retail outlet, opened in Shinjuku, 5,500 people stampeded the doors at 10 A.M. for the privilege of first setting foot on its marble-floored premises. For two months afterward people lined up to buy everything from Gucci calfskin loafers to what was reportedly the world's greatest tofu, retailed at 650 yen a pack. Browsing was impossible, as consumers engaged in a hysterical frenzy to outbuy fellow shoppers as fast they could.

But any Tokyo shopping junkie knows that for a genuine adrenaline rush, one must head not to the glittering Takashimaya, but to the *semonchō*, specialty-shop districts scattered around town. These are areas with a theme, be it lacquered sushi displays or Harley-Davidsons, and a shop owner's dedication to the chosen products borders on fanaticism.

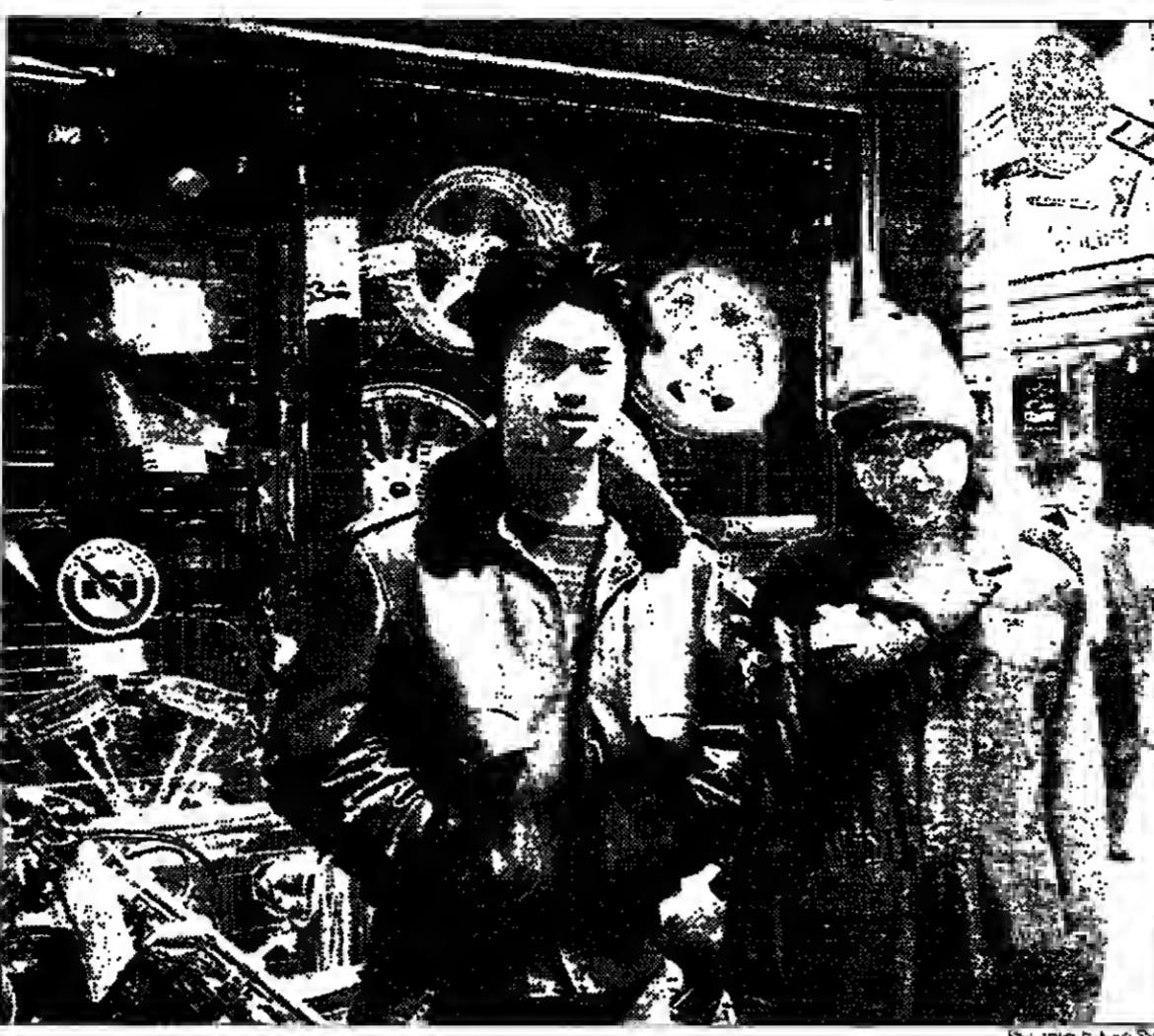
Take Bike Town, the perfect hangout for the Hell's Angels if they ever decide to show up en masse in Tokyo. In the Ueno district, where 50 years ago black-market profiteers boasted the largest operations in the city, Bike Town is now a shrine to "Easy Rider" aesthetics.

Wander by Bike Town land and one has left Japan for a Janpanized, idealized vision of America. Harley's line the streets like sentries, and are available for purchase in U.S. dollars. Nose-pierced young couples stroll by digging popcorn out of plastic bags, wearing cuddly motorcycle gear.

The core customer, however, is the 40ish man staunchly devoted to the American ideal of "individualism" and freedom in the wind. They show up on customized "Fat Boys" (Arnold Schwarzenegger's vehicle of choice) wearing faded jeans, black police jackets and the obligatory bandanna. After a quick runup at the garage, they'll check out the Harley paraphernalia shops — all studded wrist bands, chunky silver rings, skull helmets and yes, skin-tight leather pants.

Ueno's *fling with Americanism continues up the street at Ameyoko*, where no one has bothered to bury the traces of its black-market origins. The operative word here has been, and always will be, "plenty." Fresh seafood and produce and factory-surplus everything crowd the stalls. It's nothing to see live, writhing octopuses displayed next to potato chips, fake Rolexes and fur coats. Did anyone mention quality? Taste? Unheard of in Ameyoko.

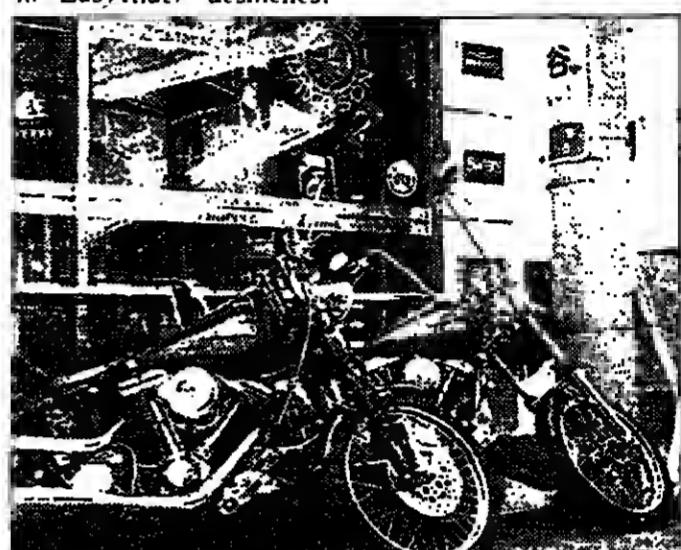
Move along a few strides and the landscape changes to army



A biker couple in full gear hanging out in front of Bike Town, in the Ueno district.



Americanism run rampant: Bike Town is a shrine to "Easy Rider" aesthetics.



American discount shops and are found along the freeways just outside the city. Outlets are educating the Tokyo shopper in the joys of a simple, hassle-free buying system. No navigating of escalators or scaling of stairways, no hopping from store to store with armloads of shopping bags; just pile purchases into huge carts and line up at the register.

MOST Outlets have restaurants, game centers or bowling alleys to appease fidgety kids and husbands who wait around while the women pour over the merchandise.

Analysts say that Outlet wares are often of questionable quality, and the service leaves much to be desired. But shoppers aren't there for the products themselves as much as for the ritual of buying. In this case, they're buying into an American phenomenon — piling the family into a car, parking in an oceanic lot, stuffing a shopping cart with whatever strikes the fancy, pulling out a credit card.

For now, it all looks exotic.

Kaori Shoji is a writer based in Tokyo.

Trouble in Paradise, Florida

By Tracie Rozhon
New York Times Service

PALM BEACH, Florida — As the Florida sun beats relentlessly on the perfect palms and spotless thoroughfares, the residents of this Mediterranean-style mecca are losing their cool over big houses.

Just this month, a Palm Beach neighbor of the oil billionaire David Koch and his wife, Julia, who are gutting a landmark mansion here (while still renovating the former Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis apartment in New York) filed suit to block them from enclosing their upstairs porch. The neighbor charged that the second-story alteration would block his ocean view.

To many Palm Beach inhabitants, the lawsuit — which eventually was dismissed — is symbolic of the bad feelings whirling through the banyan trees, as hundreds of newcomers from the north, younger than ever before, put down roots in the sand.

"Yes, this is the town that used to be known as a place rich people came to die," said David Ober, chairman of Sotheby's Southeast, who, with his wife, Polly, is rearing two teenagers here. "But if it was true, it's certainly not true anymore."

Today, they're coming here to build.

In a recent report commissioned by the town, architectural consultants hired to assess the Big House Problem found that zoning issues in Palm Beach have become "increasingly fractious and divisive, causing citizens to turn against one another." "The town is faced with a paradoxical demand from citizens," they wrote. "Don't let them build any more big monster houses, and don't get in my way when I want to add rooms to my own house."

Rafters are rising, and concrete mixers are grinding. Piles

of sand and cast-iron pipes dot yards awaiting new surf; pickup trucks and painters' vans are parked helter-skelter. "This island is sinking from the weight of the concrete," said Judith Green, author of "Sometimes Paradise," a 1987 novel based in Palm Beach, who has been coming here since she was 19. "There are people here playing Monopoly — building the most conspicuous house just because they can." But she also criticized longtime residents who allowed their mansions to go to seed and to be replaced by new houses. Some people, she said, "run around screaming, 'What's happened to our island?'" She added, "Well, they couldn't keep the place up, could they?"

The biggest houses, rising on "estate size" lots — at least one and a half acres (more than half a hectare) — are almost indistinguishable from the vintage villas, and that is the point. They are being built by this decade's heirs and hedge-millennials, who want that Palm Beach look: the carved stone curlicues, the Gothic windows, the atriums and the archways — but without the tiny bedrooms, and with walk-in closets and central air-conditioning. One house being constructed has windshield wipers on its ocean-front windows, to wash off the salt spray every day.

Worried about the town's architectural future, officials and the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, a private group, have met with Urban Design Associates of Pittsburgh, who helped plan Celebration, the new Disney town in central Florida. The consultants have proposed a pattern book — similar to ones of a century ago, but with examples of what not to build: blocky mansions with oversize windows and entrances. Compliance with a pattern book would be voluntary, but bonuses — like the chance to build a wider house — could be granted to those who follow the recommendations. The town council has ordered a detailed study, due in two months.



Style is not a size...it's an Attitude! MARINA RINALDI

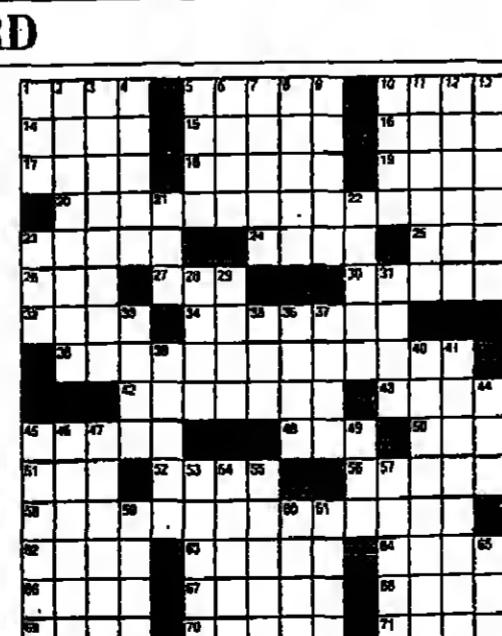
Sizes 14-28

CROSSWORD

ACROSS												
1 Armed forces lensless	25 Classic car	49 Dancer Charisse	11 Six Million Dollar Man, e.g.	12 Town in County Kerry	13 Electric eye, e.g.	21 Oklahoma Indian	22 She who had a "Rocky" career	23 Bellum's opposite	24 Moist in the morning	25 Dutch cheese	26	27
5 Leo's whip?	26 The "A" in NATO: Abbr.	50 "The — Divorce"	14 Town in County Kerry	51 Mag. staffers	52 Infamous Rudolf	53 Constitutional Amendment that abolished slavery	54 Hardly award-winning writing	55 Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, e.g.	56 Together, musically	57 Jets, e.g.	58 1949 Bing Crosby hit	59
10 Play parts	59 Feina hybrid	60 Family problem	59	61	62 Infamous Rudolf	63 Jets, e.g.	64 Family problem	65 Stew beer	66 "L.A. Law" lawyer	67 "L.A. Law" lawyer	68 1949 Bing Crosby hit	69
14 Fairy gem	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
15 Synagogue scrot	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
16 Combustible mite	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
17 — Sabre	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83
18 Actress Verdugo	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
19 Israeli statesman	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
20 Gauze for couch potatoes	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
22 Aco, e.g.	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92
24 "You Are My Destry" singer, 1958	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93

Solution to Puzzle of March 29

WOMA	FRAM	LEVI'S
AMID	DAVE	ALIBI
DAME	GREEN	NEVIS
DESSIN	JOHN	WILLIAMS
PIN	NET	WILLIAMS
ACAFIA	GAJIT	AMAR
LABOR	LIST	STAR
TRYBEFOREYOUBUY	PUGET	SHORE
MESS	UCLA	HEAVEN
DS	EROS	LITTER
SAG	BOO	CLAW
SHOPTILLYOUDROP		
VESSES	GARS	LONA
MEHINRU	ALOE	VIES
CLAMP	MANN	ABST



Monday's 3 P.M.

The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.

The Associated Press

Continued on Page 16

THE AMERICAS



Computer Associates Plans to Buy Rival

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Computer Associates International Inc., one of the largest makers of business software, said Monday it was buying a smaller rival, Platinum Technology International Inc., for \$3.5 billion.

The cash offer is worth more than three times Platinum Technology's market value, based on the closing price Friday of \$9.875 a share. But it would give Computer Associates access to Platinum's consulting services and software for managing data and technology.

Shares in Platinum Technology rose \$15 to \$24.875 in late trading, while Computer Associates fell 81 cents to \$33.125.

The acquisition of Platinum is expected to add 25 cents a share to Computer Associates' earnings in the first 12 months, excluding charges.

Platinum Technology, based in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, provides software products and consulting services that help companies manage and improve systems and database management, e-commerce, data warehousing and year 2000 re-engineering. The 12-year-

old company has more than 120 offices across six continents.

Computer Associates has more than 13,000 employees and had revenue of \$5.1 billion last year. It has been buying companies that set up and run computer systems to help offset a drop in demand for business software.

"It gives them critical mass," said Paul Rodriguez, an analyst with C.E. Unterberg Towbin, who has a "long-term buy" rating on Computer Associates. (AP, Bloomberg)

Auctions by Amazon.com

Amazon.com Inc., the Internet's biggest retailer of books and music, said Monday that it would add auctions to its Web site to attract more visitors and capitalize on a fast-growing and profitable form of online commerce, Bloomberg News reported from Seattle.

Amazon will go head-to-head with leading auctioneer eBay Inc., one of the few profitable Internet retailers. Amazon, which started by selling books in 1995, became one of the most-visited shopping sites when it added products such as videos and music.

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Iridium Network Reschedules Debt

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Iridium LLC, provider of the world's first satellite-based global-telephone network, said Monday that Roy Grant, its chief financial officer, resigned effective April 16 as the company reviews revenue and subscriber targets.

The company also said it had received a 60-day waiver from its bank lenders for its \$800 million senior secured credit facility. Iridium said this month it would fall short of its first-quarter profit and revenue target and would have to renegotiate its credit agreement. Iridium blamed the shortfall on distribution problems such as shortages of phones and pagers and a sales effort hampered by lack of a trained staff.

Iridium said Mr. Grant was leaving for personal reasons and that it was seeking a successor. Under the terms of the waiver, Iridium must have at least \$4 million in revenue, at least \$30 million in accrued revenue and at least 52,000 subscribers by May 31. Iridium said it was revising its revenue and customer estimates.

Takeover News Pushes Stocks Toward Record

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks soared into record territory Monday, with the Dow Jones industrial average trading past the key 10,000 level, as news of possible corporate takeovers and mergers propelled the market higher.

The imminent end of the first quarter also prompted buying by institutional investors.

The Dow Jones Industrial average climbed 209.24 points to 10,314.48 in late trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 28.34 points to 1,311.14. The Nasdaq composite index gained 70.57 points to 2,489.74.

Eight stocks rose for every 5 that fell on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Dow passed 10,000 on four trading days in March, but fell back each time before the closing bell.

"There is quite a bit of resilience and quite a bit of firepower being put to work here today," said Ken Gehl, vice president for equity marketing at Everen Securities. "It seems as though everything is participating."

The market was also benefiting from the sense that the Federal Reserve Board would probably not

raise interest rates at its policy meeting on Tuesday. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 22/32 to 94 11/32, taking the yield up to 5.64 percent from 5.59 percent.

Oil shares posted the biggest gains after BP Amoco said it was in talks to buy Atlantic Richfield Co.

"It certainly appears there's more consolidation to come" in the industry, said David Dreman, president of Dreman Value Management.

U.S. STOCKS

LLC, in Red Bank, New Jersey.

The news lifted other oil-company shares. Texaco rose 3 7/16 to 59, Unocal climbed 1 to 36 13/16, and Conoco rose 15/16 to 24 3/4.

Technology benchmark Microsoft rose 2 1/4 to 91 1/2 after the software giant said it would reorganize its businesses into five groups based on customer types and named five veterans to lead them.

International Business Machines and Dell Computer led a rally in computer shares, after a Goldman, Sachs & Co. investment strategist that the two companies were undervalued. (AP, Bloomberg)

Very briefly:

• E*Trade Group Inc., the No. 3 on-line brokerage, plans to acquire ClearStation Inc., a Web-based financial community with 90,000 registered members, within the next month.

• Wells Fargo & Co. plans to eliminate about 4,600 jobs as part of its merger with the former Norwest Corp. The job cuts will come over this year and next as the bank gets rid of overlapping operations with Norwest.

• Service Merchandise Co., the discount jewelry and home products chain, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, claiming total debts of \$1.3 billion owed to more than 1,000 creditors. The company listed assets of \$1.5 billion.

• Brazil's current account deficit — the broadest measure of a country's trade of goods and services — fell to \$9.24 billion in February from \$2.5 billion in January as imports fell following the currency devaluation, the central bank said. It was its lowest level since May 1996.

• Imperial Chemical Industries PLC is in talks with Huntsman Corp., the largest privately held chemicals maker in the United States, and others to sell bulk-chemicals assets.

• TRW Inc. has bought or agreed to buy 90 percent of the issued shares of LucasVarity PLC. (Bloomberg, AP, Reuters)

Weekend Box Office

LOS ANGELES — "Forces of Nature" dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend, with a gross of \$9.6 million. Following are the Top 10 moneymakers, based on Saturday's ticket sales and estimated sales for Sunday.

1. Forces of Nature	DreamWorks	\$9.6 million
2. Edtv	Universal Pictures	\$9.7 million
3. Analyze This	Warner Bros.	\$8.8 million
4. The Mod Squad	MCA	\$6.1 million
5. The Hunt for Red October	Warner Bros.	\$4.4 million
6. Life is Beautiful	Alchem	\$3.3 million
7. True Crime	Warner Bros.	\$3.2 million
8. Life is Beautiful	Alchem	\$2.7 million
9. Baby Geniuses	TriStar	\$2.4 million
10. Credit Miserables	Columbia Pictures	\$2.4 million

Source: The Hollywood Reporter

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Monday, March 29

Indexes

Most Actives

Dow Jones

Standard & Poor's

NYSE

Nasdaq

AMEX

Dow Jones Bond

Corporate Bond

Bank

Finance

Transport

AMEX

High, Low, Open, Close, Chg, Opt.

Dow Jones Bond

Corporate Bond

Bank

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AMEX

Central Bank Steps Into BNP Bid

Trichet Urges 3 French Institutions to 'Engage in Dialogue'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — The governor of the Bank of France, Jean-Claude Trichet, on Monday cleared Banque Nationale de Paris SA's hostile \$37 billion bid for Societe Generale SA and Paribas SA and urged the three to hold talks on the merger.

Mr. Trichet said he hoped the three would "engage in a dialogue" with a view to finding a solution "fully respecting the moral and financial situation of each bank and preserving the higher interests of the banking sector."

Mr. Trichet's comments came shortly after BNP's hostile bid for control of Societe Generale and Paribas was cleared by the Comite des Etablissements de Credit, a banking regulator over which Mr. Trichet presides.

The regulator authorized BNP to make a bid for 50.01 percent or more of Paribas and Societe Generale. But

if BNP gets only a minority of the two banks, it would have to seek a new authorization to keep the shareholdings, the committee indicated.

Societe Generale and Paribas have said BNP's bid is illegal, in part because BNP has not said what it would do if it only got a minority.

The Societe Generale president, Andre Levy-Lang, said Friday that "anything which would lead to a three-way merger we rule out absolutely."

BNP's unexpected share-swap offer, made March 9, would create the only bank in the world with more than \$1 trillion in assets. It came on the eve of the closing of an agreed \$19 billion share-swap offer by Societe Generale to take over Paribas. Top managements of the two banks have vowed to fight BNP's bid.

Societe Generale and Paribas appealed the decision Friday of another regulator that cleared BNP's bid, ar-

guing that BNP was not providing enough information to shareholders.

One of the banks' arguments is that BNP has not said it would keep a minority stake if it got it, so shareholders do not really know what kind of bank they are exchanging their share for.

BNP still has other regulatory hurdles to jump before it can officially open its bid. The Commission des Operations de Bourses, France's stock-market regulator, must decide whether investors are being given enough information.

On March 16, the Conseil des Marches Financiers, which rules whether the value of the bid is compatible with the market, cleared BNP's offer. Societe Generale and Paribas appealed that decision Friday to the Paris Court of Appeals. The court is to set a date this week for the banks to present their arguments.

(AFP, Bloomberg)



Olivetti Adds To Its Offer For Telecom

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MILAN — Olivetti SpA raised its bid Monday for bigger rival Telecom Italia SpA by 15 percent to 60.4 billion euros (\$65.23 billion) and said it would be its final offer for the telecommunications company.

"In any negotiation, you don't start by giving your definitive offer straight away," said Robert Colanuno, managing director of Olivetti. "But I can tell you that this is now our definitive offer."

Olivetti's new 11.5 euro-per-share bid, from 10 euros per share in cash, stock and bonds, comes days before Telecom Italia shareholders are set to vote on defensive measures that would obstruct the takeover. A higher bid would make an approval of those measures less certain.

"I think it will give some people who have been hesitating pause to reconsider," said Robert Grindell, an analyst at HSBC Securities in London. "This is starting to approach the range which could convince folks."

Olivetti said its new bid was still conditional on no substantial change in Telecom Italia's pre-bid structure — underlining the fact that the new offer hinges on Telecom's shareholders throwing out a \$24.7 billion buyout of cellphone unit TIM, which Telecom Italia announced over the weekend.

Telecom Italia's management, which is buying out the company's cellular unit and converting nonvoting savings shares as part of its defense, had rejected Olivetti's previous bid, at \$58 billion, as too low.

Olivetti's new offer will pay 6.92 euros in cash per Telecom Italia share, \$20.83 euros' worth of bonds per share, and three shares in its Tecnotest unit for every five Telecom Italia shares. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt	London	Paris
Day	FTSE 100 Index	CAC 40
5800	6800	4400
5400	6200	4100
5000	5800	3800
4600	5400	3500
4200	5000	3200
3800	4800	2900
O N D J F M 1998 1999	O N D J F M 1998 1999	O N D J F M 1998 1999
Exchange	Index	Monday Close
Amsterdam	AEX	534.55
Brussels	BEL 20	3,284.37
Frankfurt	DAX	4,876.92
Copenhagen	Stock Market	587.72
Helsinki	HEX General	6,466.01
Oslo	OBX	561.92
London	FTSE 100	6,252.90
Madrid	Stock Exchange	865.38
Milan	MIBTEL	2477.3
Paris	CAC 40	4,153.65
Stockholm	SX 16	4,178.26
Vienna	ATX	1,161.30
Zurich	SPI	4,913.20

Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

Paris Cuts Forecast of '99 Growth

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — The government cut its 1999 economic growth forecast Monday and said business confidence fell for the seventh month in a row in March, pressuring the European Central Bank to cut interest rates as soon as next week.

Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn predicted that France's economy would grow between 2.2 percent and 2.5 percent this year, down from 2.7 percent he forecast in October.

Separately, the statistics institute INSEE said in its monthly report that industrial activity had "clearly slowed in recent months," adding that order books were continuing to shrink. It said manufacturers' co-

idence was at a two-and-a-half year low.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn said that the fall in weak economies in Russia, Latin America and Asia would limit growth in France this year. But he added that France would still have stronger growth than its main partners in the euro zone, "clearly stronger than Germany and Italy, which will be nearer to 1.5 percent."

Finance Ministry officials said they did not think the divergence between France and Germany, Europe's two biggest economies, was incompatible with the smooth running of monetary union.

But Omar Issing, chief economist at the European Central Bank,

said Sunday that economic growth in the 11-nation euro region was "weakening significantly" with "no sign of inflationary dangers." The comments were interpreted by investors to mean that the central bank may be prepared to cut rates.

Business confidence has slumped in Germany in recent months as companies like Volkswagen AG, Europe's biggest carmaker, warned that weak Asian and Latin American economies would hit sales.

France's business confidence index, which measures expectation for national industrial output, declined to minus 22 in March from minus 16 in February. March's reading was the lowest since October 1996. (Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters)

Glaxo Redirects Search for Partner

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Glaxo Wellcome PLC was seeking a merger partner Monday after talks with Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. reportedly broke down.

Sources familiar with the situation said Glaxo and Bristol-Myers had held discussions on creating a pharmaceutical behemoth accounting for more than 8 percent of the \$250 billion global prescription drug market. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

• LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA has won an extra week, until April 6, to launch a full takeover bid for Gucci Group NV.

• Moody's Investors Service Ltd. cut its credit outlook on Diageo PLC, the world's largest liquor maker, to "negative" from "stable" as a result of the company's £1.13 billion (\$1.83 billion) share buyback last week, in which it repurchased 4.5 percent of its share capital.

• The European Commission cleared Ford Motor Co.'s acquisition of Volvo AB's car unit. The commission said the combination would have only "a limited effect in terms of industry concentration."

• Renault SA shares closed about 3 percent higher at 35.05 euros (\$37.91) in late trading after the carmaker forecast that its 37 percent stake in debt-laden Nissan Motor Co. would "strongly" improve its earnings beginning in 2001.

• Marks & Spencer PLC, Britain's largest clothing retailer, said it would cut 200 jobs at its head office in a second round of job cuts.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Very briefly:

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(Bloomberg, Reuters)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

High Low Close Prev.

Monday, March 29 Prices in local currencies; in euros for EU countries.

High Low Close Prev.

Frankfurt DAX 11,100 11,089 11,020 10,750 Previous: 10,727.77

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX index 524.54 Previous: 525.44

High Low Close Prev.

London FTSE 100 6,252.90 Previous: 6,252.90

High Low Close Prev.

Milan MIB Telescopio 247,770.00 Previous: 247,770.00

High Low Close Prev.

Paris CAC 40 1,753.65 Previous: 1,753.65

High Low Close Prev.

Taipei Stock Market index 6,971.45 Previous: 6,972.35

High Low Close Prev.

Seoul Composite index 881.07 Previous: 881.07

High Low Close Prev.

Paris Stock Market index 6,971.45 Previous: 6,972.35

High Low Close Prev.

Shenzhen B shares index 51.49 Previous: 51.49

High Low Close Prev.

Stockholm SX 14 index 1,204.95 Previous: 1,203.24

High Low Close Prev.

Tokyo Nikkei 225 7,225.72 Previous: 7,225.72

High Low Close Prev.

Tel Aviv Tel Aviv 25 index 2,451.45 Previous: 2,451.11

High Low Close Prev.

Bangkok SET index 343.21 Previous: 343.21

High Low Close Prev.

Helsinki HX General 4,441.41 Previous: 4,441.39

High Low Close Prev.

Hong Kong Hang Seng 14,688.49 Previous: 14,687.38

High Low Close Prev.

Athens Composite 29 516.51 Previous: 516.46

High Low Close Prev.

Buenos Aires Merval 1,000.21 Previous: 1,000.21

High Low Close Prev.

Brussels BEL 20 2,554.37 Previous: 2,554.37

High Low Close Prev.

Buenos Aires Merval 1,000.21 Previous: 1,000.21

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High Low Close Prev.

Buenos Aires Merval

NASDAQ

Monday's 3 P.M.

The 1,000 most traded Nasdaq Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

12 Month High Low	Stock	Div Yld	PE	100s High	Low	Latest	Chg
12.00	ABX		12.00	12.00	11.80	11.80	-0.00
11.00	ABX		11.00	11.00	10.80	10.80	-0.00
10.00	ABX		10.00	10.00	9.80	9.80	-0.00
9.00	ABX		9.00	9.00	8.80	8.80	-0.00
8.00	ABX		8.00	8.00	7.80	7.80	-0.00
7.00	ABX		7.00	7.00	6.80	6.80	-0.00
6.00	ABX		6.00	6.00	5.80	5.80	-0.00
5.00	ABX		5.00	5.00	4.80	4.80	-0.00
4.00	ABX		4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	-0.00
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On-Line Traders Taking Alternate Routes May Not See Curves Ahead

By Gretchen Morgenson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK—Millions of investors have rushed into the brave new world of electronic stock trading. Armed with fast computers and sophisticated software, they see themselves not only at the market's epicenter but also on the same plane as professional traders. For extra enticement, there are low commissions, sometimes less than \$10 a trade.

What many investors may not realize is that their trades—particularly in the sizzling Internet stocks with which on-line traders are infatuated—are not finding their way to the market through traditional channels.

Instead, much of that trading is being piped through new types of electronic networks—systems that, in theory, are ideal marketplaces, where buyers and sellers can trade stocks without paying a fee to the professional traders who have long served as middlemen in the Nasdaq market.

The new trading systems, called electronic communications networks, or ECNs, are pitched as a way for investors to gain instant access to the markets and to compete head to head with professional traders.

Yet for all their promise, these networks have distinct disadvantages. They and the investors who use them—including the growing numbers of rapid-fire day traders—are contributing to the wild ricochetting of prices in Internet stocks.

Moreover, although commissions for trading on line are indeed rock bottom, there are hidden costs in using the networks. Prices on these networks are inferior on eight out of 10 stocks they trade, according to the National Association of Securities Dealers. In large part, that is because investors are trading only with other investors who are using the same network rather than "meeting" all other investors in the broader Nasdaq marketplace.

Frustrations over poor prices, or trades that were not executed at all, have led some experienced investors to wonder whether something is amiss between the time or-

ders are placed and the time they show up on an ECN.

"The upside is that investors are getting that meeting possibility," said Richard Ketchum, president of the securities dealers' association. "The downside is that they are not getting any execution guarantee."

The networks now account for about 20 percent of trading in Nasdaq stocks—more than the volume on the American Stock Exchange and all the U.S. regional stock exchanges combined. But even investors who are not using the networks have reason to be concerned, as volatility jumps and total trading costs increase.

"We're in a period of disequilibrium right now," said Bruce Weber, assistant professor of information systems at New York University's Stern School of Business. "Anybody that's trading a Nasdaq stock these days has to work harder to find the best price and ideal counterparties than they did maybe three or four years ago."

With the Nasdaq composite index up 10 percent so far this year, the problems have been largely papered over by investor profits. Not until a full-fledged market dive will investors find out whether the fragmented marketplace created by the rise of these networks will make it harder to sell—or harder to sell at a good price. Such difficulties could make jittery investors panic, turning a trickle of selling into a flood and pulling down more established stocks, too.

Regulators opened the door wide to the new networks after they found in the mid-1990s that traders in Nasdaq stocks were profiting from artificially wide spreads—the difference between the price at which traders buy shares from sellers and the price at which they will resell them to buyers.

In the most important change, regulators forced Nasdaq traders to display customers' orders that fell at prices within the spread. They also encouraged the creation of networks that could allow investors to meet. Rather than taking a markup on trades, the networks profit by charging a

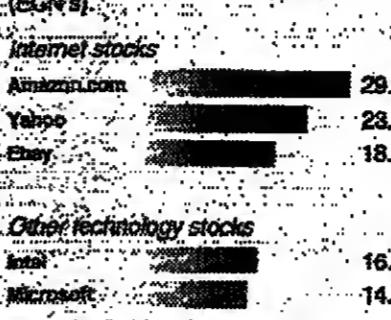
Internet Stocks Trade Mostly in Small Lots...

Percentage of volume traded in lots of 100 shares or less



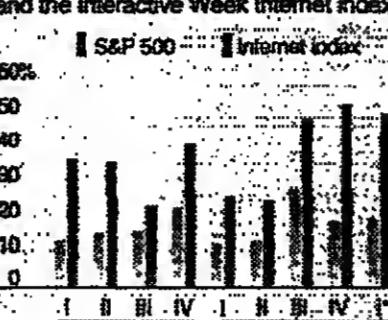
...Often on Electronic Trading Networks...

Percentage of volume traded through electronic communications networks (ECNs)



...Contributing to Wild Price Swings...

Annualized daily price return volatility of the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index and the Interactive Week Internet index



...And High Trading Costs for Investors

Average trading costs for the third and fourth quarters of 1998, including commissions and implicit costs



small fee for each transaction.

Most of the electronic networks operate today for institutional investors. The oldest is Instinet, a unit of Reuters Group PLC. But two rapidly growing services cater to individual investors: Island, a two-year-old network owned by Datek Holdings, a discount brokerage firm based in Iselin, New Jersey, and Archipelago, a Chicago-based company whose owners include Goldman, Sachs & Co. and E*Trade Group Inc.

The 200,000 customers of Datek Online have trades funneled to Island.

"ECNs are one of the most dramatic forces reshaping the equity markets," said David Cushing, director of research at ITG Inc., a research and trading company that runs a trade-matching service for institutional investors called ITG Posit.

"I think ECNs have a very valuable role in improving the efficiency of the market. The downside is, many of the benefits of ECNs have been co-opted by the professional day trader. Some of the ways they are being used right now are not in the market's best interest."

ECNs play a significant role in the increasing volatility in many Nasdaq stocks. A growing number of day traders, who buy and sell frequently all day long hoping to capture tiny per-share profits

or larger trades, execute their orders on the networks. Their lemming-like behavior in stocks that are already moving has made 15-point single-day swings common.

Even the occasional trader who uses an ECN can add to volatility.

If a customer offers to buy a stock at a price well above the market—something that happens increasingly, with so many on-line traders eager to buy stocks at any price—the offer is flashed on other investors' screens, helping push the market higher. At a brokerage firm, that order would probably be executed at the lower price.

The day traders and the "price-is-no-object" investors are creating wild price swings in Internet stocks, which trade widely on the electronic networks.

According to ITG, daily swings in an index of Internet stocks have been running at more than twice the level of such swings in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index. Such volatility increases investors' anxieties and raises their costs by making it more difficult to get in and out of positions.

"People take pride in the fact that spreads in stocks have narrowed, but intraday price changes are bigger than they've ever been," said Andrew Brooks, vice president in charge of equity trading at T. Rowe Price in Baltimore. "I don't think we've ever had

an environment like that."

The biggest problem posed by the electronic networks is the fragmentation of the market for Nasdaq stocks. The Nasdaq market has always been fragmented because it has no central trading floor, but the networks split up the market even more. When fewer trades are posted in one place, it is less likely that orders to buy and sell at the same price will find each other.

Robert Colby, deputy director of the Securities and Exchange Commission's division of market regulation, said that although the changes ordered after the Nasdaq investigation had helped investors, "it's still a dispersed market."

"If the volume is going on in one place and you are at another, you won't get executed," he said.

An investor can also wind up with an inferior price. Say a stock is quoted on ECN "A" at \$10.25 (the "bid" price) and at \$10.375 (the "offered" price), while ECN "B" has prices of \$10.25 bid, \$10.3125 offered. An investor interested in buying the shares at the prevailing price would pay more to trade on "A."

Or say an investor has

placed a limit order—an order to buy stock at a set price—on an electronic network. If there is no seller willing to take the other side of the trade at that price, the order remains unfilled.

After it becomes evident

that the trade cannot be matched at the network, the investor, if he or she understands how Nasdaq trading works, can cancel the order and route it to another system or to a big market-maker such as Merrill Lynch & Co. or Knight Securities Inc.

Even then, this time lapse—maybe just a few seconds—can be costly. The price the investor wanted to pay may be vastly different from the new one. If the market price is much higher, the order is not executed. If the market price has fallen significantly, the order is executed—but the

investor pays more for the stock.

When it comes to costs, most investors focus only on their brokerage commissions. But explicit costs such as commissions make up only 10 percent of an investor's total costs, according to Salomon Smith Barney. Implicit costs, such as what an investor pays for a volatile stock or when trades are badly executed, make up the rest.

Eugene Noser, of Abe/Noser Corp. in New York, who tracks trading costs, says that implicit factors—including those driven by the rise of electronic

networks—are very high on popular Internet stocks.

"If you take the trading costs of a Yahoo or eBay or Excite, they are astronomical," he said. "It is very difficult and expensive to try to execute orders in these stocks."

According to Abe/Noser, while the average cost of trading New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange and Nasdaq stocks is about 0.16 percent of the transaction amount, the average cost to trade eBay Inc. in the last six months of 1998 was roughly 0.4 percent; for Yahoo! Inc., it was 0.22 percent.

accountemps

ROBERT HALF

MANAGEMENT

RESOURCES

RHI CONSULTING

TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE

THE AFFILIATES

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Attention: Bob Dack

Look on the bright side. There'll also be lots more cherries and watermelons in the future. Because at our agribusiness, Hoechst Schering AgrEvo, we aim to utilize biotechnology in improving crop production and protection for harvests that are more bountiful than ever. After all, the cultivated areas of the world won't get any bigger. But our children will. And it's their future that's at stake.

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F12548 RHI

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Metz Forward Quits

SOCCER Vlada Lukic, a Serbian forward, said Monday he was quitting the French First Division club Metz for three months to protest NATO air strikes on his country.

Lukic said he was returning to Belgrade to be with his family.

"Innocent people are being bombed," Lukic told French television.

UEFA said Monday it would not support Yugoslav players who were shunning club competition in response to NATO air strikes.

While sympathizing with the players' anxieties, European soccer's governing body said its official stance was, "Politics should not be mixed with football." UEFA also said that Yugoslavia would remain eligible to participate in Euro 2000. "We are not thinking of playing without any of the countries," said Guido Tognoni, head of the competition. (Reuters)

• Herbert Prohaska said Monday he was resigning as the Austrian coach after more than six years in the post. His team lost, 9-0, to Spain in a Euro 2000 Group 6 qualifier on Saturday. (AP)

Duvals Complete Double

GOLF David Duval won the Tournament Players Championship to take the No. 1 ranking in men's golf and complete an unprecedented family double.

Duval won the tournament Sunday 90 minutes after his father, Bob, won the Senior Tour Atlantic Coast Classic, making the Duvals the first father-son combination to win PGA Tour events on the same weekend.

David Duval shot a 1-over-par 73 to finish 3-under for the tournament (285). Scott Gump finished second, two strokes back, and Nick Price was a shot behind him in third. (NYT)

• Dottie Pepper shot a 6-under-par 66 to win the Dinal Shore Classic, the first women's major of the year, in Rancho Mirage, California, with a tournament-record 19-under 269 total. Pepper finished six-shots better on Sunday than Meg Mallon. (AP)

Avalanche Reach Peak

ICE HOCKEY The Colorado Avalanche clinched the National Hockey League's Northwest Division title with a 7-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Sunday.

The victory moved Patrick Roy, the Colorado goaltender, past Jacques Plante for the NHL career lead in total victories with his 506th, counting regular season and playoffs.

In another game, the Dallas Stars clinched the Western Conference championship with a 3-0 victory at Nashville. (AP)

Australia All Out for 146

CRICKET Australia stammered in its second innings on the fourth day of the third test against the West Indies in Barbados. At tea, Australia was all out for 146 in its second innings, setting West Indies a victory target of 308. (AP)



Charles Johnson, the Baltimore Orioles catcher, tagging out Jose Estrada of Cuba at home plate.

Orioles Beat Cuban Team — This Time

By Thomas Boswell
Washington Post Service

HAVANA — The old Washington Senators pitcher Connie Marrero took the mound at Estadio Latinoamericano to face leadoff man Brady Anderson of the Baltimore Orioles. First, Marrero threw a curveball that broke over the heart of the plate for a strike. Then he tried two fastballs, just inches off the outside corner — the same way he always tried to get Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams to chase bad pitches.

Finally, on the fourth pitch Sunday, Anderson tried to bunt. But Marrero's curve was too sharp, and Anderson fouled it back. Then, since it was obvious that Marrero had no intention of leaving the mound, Cuban authorities gently led the little snowy-haired general away. After all, Marrero is 87.

There has never been a ceremonial first pitch like Marrero's Sunday. But then there has never been a game like this historic 3-2 Orioles victory in 11 tense innings against a short-handed, makeshift Cuban team.

Marrero began the afternoon with a message of defiance to the Americans. He wasn't kidding. He was pitching. The

implication was simple: This game was dedicated to the vindication of 40 years of Cuban stars who have not been able to prove themselves against the other greats of baseball who compete as pros.

More than three hours later, the Orioles' \$82 million payroll, and by extension all of big league baseball, escaped with their dignity intact. But just barely.

In the bottom of the 10th, Cuba sent its No. 3 and No. 4 hitters — Yobel Duena and the legendary Omar Linares (career average .371 with 371 homers) — to the plate against journeyman Mike Feltner with the winning run on second base.

Thanks to a strikeout and a pop-up, President Fidel Castro, who was seated between Bud Selig, the Major League Baseball commissioner, and Peter Angelos, the Orioles owner, did not get the last laugh. He'd broken out a grin when a two-out single in the eighth by Linares off reliever Mike Timlin tied the game at 2.

The Orioles' 2-0 lead, built by Charles Johnson's home run, had been blown. The sellout invitation-only crowd, quiet for most of the game, had reason to holler.

As for the Cuban players, they went as far as one day's work possibly could to justify their own careers and the countless others before them. Their composed

come-from-behind performance was a credit to Wilfredo (Hitt) Sanchez, Rodolfo Puente, Vincente Anglada, Omar Ajete, Victor (El Loco) Mesa and many others whose careers came and went in the relative obscurity of international amateur tournaments and the Olympics.

The Orioles won the battle. But the Cubans may have won the war by proving that they could compete against the Orioles' front-line players.

If these two teams played a full season, which would be better? Probably the Orioles. They have more powerful hitters in the heart of their order. But, otherwise, from pitching to fielding to base running, they seemed equal.

When the Cubans visit Baltimore on May 3 to play the Orioles again, they will bring a half-dozen more standouts who are playing in the Cuban championship between Industriales and Santa Clara. After the Cubans add Antonia Pacheco, Herman Mesa and Orestes Kindelan, the Orioles better not wait until the 11th inning for Will Clark to double and Harold Baines to single him home.

This game created only one problem. Which Cuban player will not want to defect? If this is the caliber of major league baseball, where do we sign up?

Even Castro, clad in trademark military fatigues, stood for his seat behind home plate for "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And when night fell, the town rocked. Jimmy Buffet, Bonnie Raitt and Gladys Knight took the stage in a concert by local and American musical stars that ended an extraordinary day in Cuba. Their opening number in the Karl Marx Theater: a stylized Cuban rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

All this in a single day — a remarkable convergence of American cultural icons with their Cuban counterparts at a time when relations between the governments in Havana and Washington are approaching one of their lowest points since the end of the Cold War.

"They know good baseball when they see it, and they're seeing it today," Romero said.

since the Los Angeles Dodgers took the field here 40 years ago last week.

In the weeks leading up to Sunday's extraordinary events, both governments sought to play down the day's importance. But in baseball-crazed Cuba, which is in the midst of its own national championship series, the ballgame was the day's featured event — a vivid display of a shared national bond suddenly emerging from a deep freeze.

The veteran stadium groundskeeper Vicente Romero, 71, who rattled off a half-dozen American major and minor league teams he watched here before the revolution, said the goodwill game was most important for young Cubans.

"They know good baseball when they see it, and they're seeing it today," Romero said.

Politics Aside, It Was All About Baseball

By Mark Fineman
Los Angeles Times Service

HAVANA — The churches and streets here were filled soon after dawn Sunday with worshippers marking the start of the Christian Holy Week — once a forbidden scene in Communist-run Havana.

But on Palm Sunday afternoon, all eyes were focused on baseball. About 50,000 party loyalists and friends, led by President Fidel Castro himself, packed the downtown Estadio Latinoamericano for an exhibition game pitting a Cuban national team against the Baltimore Orioles. The crowd cheered for Cuba but applauded the Orioles as well, as millions more sat riveted to TV sets in two nations separated by 90 miles (150 kilometers) of water and 40 years of official enmity.

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The game marked the first time a U.S. major league team had played in Cuba

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Figure Skating Slides Over Some Thin Ice.

Eligibility Rules Have Deepened Confusion

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

HELSINKI — Collision among the judges. Confusion among the public. Domination by the Russians.

Those were the themes last week at the world figure skating championships, and though it would be a pleasure to watch Alexei Yagudin jump, Lactuca

VANTAGE POINT

Ruth spin and Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat emote again next year, this sport, which too often resembles a spectacle, had best use the next 12 months wisely.

Figure skating is on thin ice. More than five years after the soap-opera saga involving Tonya Harding (the villain) and Nancy Kerrigan (the victim) produced record U.S. prime-time ratings at the 1994 Winter Olympics and a burst of curiosity worldwide, figure skating's popularity and coherence are suffering.

Television audiences for traditional events dropped significantly in the United States this season, and interest also has waned in major European markets. Russia, whose skaters are the best in the world, has more pressing concerns.

The reigning men's Olympic champion, Ilya Kulik, says he can walk the streets in Moscow and hardly be recognized.

Kulik does not walk those streets often anymore. Like scores of Russian skaters and coaches, he lives and trains in the United States, and though Kulik maintained his Olympic eligibility this season, he chose to compete in open events and exhibitions instead of competing with the world championships.

So did former world champion Todd Eldredge and Oksana Kazakova and Arthur Dmitriev, the reigning Olympic pairs champions, who also were Olympic eligible and, theoretically at least, had the right to be in Helsinki.

It used to be simple to understand which skaters were on the Olympic track. Once Dorothy Hamill, the 1976 Olympic women's champion, or Robin Cousins, the 1980 men's champion, turned pro, they were out of the mix. But since 1994, when professionals such as Brian Boitano were permitted to qualify for and compete in the Lillehammer Games, the confusion has deepened.

Instead of using the professionals' return in 1994 as a lever to pry open the sport completely, the International Skating Union started erecting barriers to maintain its own relevance. The result is that figure skating is the only major Olympic sport, with the exception of baseball, that does not allow its stars equal access to its world championships or the Olympics. Imagine track and field if Marion Jones was eligible and Michael Johnson was not.

It is not as if figure skating is making a moral stand about the value of amateurism versus professionalism. All top skaters are professionals now. The increasingly arbitrary distinctions between them are simply the product of a power struggle within the sport, and the only genuine difference left between Olympic-eligible skaters and Olympic-ineligible skaters is that the ineligibles, including Philippe Candeloro or Kristi Yamaguchi or Boitano, skate in professional events that are not sanctioned by the ISU.

"When a person goes to work for another party, he cannot come back to your party again," said Ottavio Cinquanta, the ISU president. "When a skater decides to quit the ISU system and ISU judges, he doesn't go rowing or basketball. He decides to move to another area competitive with the ISU."

With some success, the ISU fought to keep stars such as Kwan happy and eligible last season by sanctioning a number of events open to all skaters, but Kwan ended up skipping the ISU's Grand Prix series altogether, and the nervous federation will now reduce the number of open events it sanctions and oblige its top skaters to compete in the Grand Prix if they want access to the opens.

"That only means Michelle will be coming to us sooner," said a non-ISU event promoter who asked not to be identified.

It also means that skating fans will set less of what they desire: the leading and most charismatic skaters competing against each other in legitimate events.

Some skaters — like the born showman Candeloro — are perfectly content to step off the more technically demanding Olympic track. But others, like Oksana Baiul, the 1994 Olympic champion, would like the option of returning. And what of Tara Lipinski, the American who turned "pro" at 15 after winning Olympic gold last year and will have an Olympics in her own country in 2002?

"With the present rules, it is impossible for Tara Lipinski to come back," Cinquanta said. "Ask her why she left."

To Cinquanta's credit, the ISU has swept away a few cobwebs in recent years. It has created a more comprehensible structure with its Grand Prix and it has addressed the judging problem in skating aggressively by pushing for the use of video replay and by shuffling the judging panels in the notoriously sclerotic discipline of ice dancing.

But instead of reaping the rewards in Helsinki for those efforts, the sport ended up with another credibility crisis despite a delightfully high standard of performance from skaters such as the men's champion, Yagudin, and the women's champion, Maria Butyrskaya. While Russia became the first nation to sweep all four disciplines, its victories in pairs and ice dancing were questionable, as was Kwan's silver medal in the women's event after a fall in the short program and a flawed, atypically flat free skate.

During the pairs final, a Canadian television crew filmed Alfred Korytak of Ukraine and Sviatoslav Babenko of Russia communicating and using what appeared to be foot signals. Any communication between judges during a competition is prohibited, and both were suspended by the ISU on Sunday, although it bears remembering that even if Korytak and Babenko had favored Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo of China instead of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sankharulidze of Russia, the Chinese still would have lost the gold by a 5-4 margin.

The French federation's protest over the judging in the ice dancing was more predictable — ice dancing is as subjective as sport gets — but the French can prove their allegation that Russian referee Alexander Gorshkov encouraged Chinese judge Ren Hongqiao to change his marks in favor of the Russians, more disciplinary action will follow.

SWITZERLAND-GERMANY-BELGIUM

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SPORTS

Purdue Tops Duke For Women's Title

Boilermakers Get First NCAA Crown

By Bill Pennington
New York Times Service

SAN JOSE, California — As Purdue's Ulkari Figgs and Stephanie White-McCarty hugged with tears in their eyes at one end of the court, a similar embrace was taking place several feet away in front of the Duke bench.

There, a tearful Nicole Erickson and Michele VanGorp — teammates of Figgs and White-McCarty before transferring from Purdue to Duke two years ago — met. Arm in arm, the two Duke seniors then turned and left the San Jose Arena court.

Figgs and White-McCarty, who was on crutches because of an ankle sprain, remained to celebrate Purdue's first National Collegiate Athletic Association women's basketball championship, a product of a 62-45 victory over Duke in the title game Sunday night.

In a spirited game that reflected both the championship stakes and the unique personal history between the teams, top-ranked Purdue overcame White-McCarty's late injury with a second-half surge.

The total points in the game (107) was the lowest for a women's NCAA final.

The injury to White-McCarty, which occurred after she missed a turnaround jumper near the foul line with four minutes left in the game, actually appeared to spark Purdue, which scored the next 13 points to put the game away.

White-McCarty — an all-American — was helped off the court before a hushed Purdue bench.

On the Purdue bench, there

were a few seconds when things appeared to be in disarray. White-McCarty's face was twisted with pain, and her teammates were in a circle trying to console her. But Purdue's players said they soon found the resolve to close out the game and win.

Although Duke had led by five points at halftime, Figgs, who would score all of her game-high 18 points in the second half, rallied Purdue to a 47-39 lead just before White-McCarty slumped to the court.

But as White-McCarty lay on the court, Duke's Hilary Howard sank a 3-point shot at the other end.

Duke's players, who appeared out of sync for most of the second half, could sense this might be their last opportunity to keep Purdue from its 32d consecutive victory.

Duke wouldn't score again until the game was one minute from ending, and by then Purdue had a 60-45 lead. In that stretch, Purdue made 12 consecutive free throws and 15 of 17 attempted.

"I'm disappointed because we've come such a long way," said Gail Goestenkors, the Duke coach.

Purdue coach Carolyn Peck, who is resigning to become coach and general manager of the Orlando franchise in the Women's National Basketball Association, said the victory Sunday would have a big impact on her school's program.

"It's our first national championship and the first national championship for a women's Big Ten program," Peck said. "These are nice accomplishments. Back home on campus, we have a pic-



Katie Douglas of Purdue, left, fighting for the ball with Duke's Michele VanGorp.

ture frame we've been reserving for Purdue's first national championship team. And these players are going in that picture frame."

White-McCarty said: "This is what we stayed for, we stayed for the opportunity. The group we have on this team makes it special."

From the opening tip, each team played with a fervor that seemed the by-product of the closeness of the most pivotal players on the court — White-McCarty, Figgs, Erickson and VanGorp.

Neither Duke nor Purdue had ever played in the national championship game of women's college basketball.

But all this led to some nervous play and sloppy basketball. Halfway through the first half, Duke led, 9-8.

The Duke guards were harassed and appeared disorganized as they tried to run their offense.

Purdue had larger guards, and the 6-foot 1-inch forward Katie Douglas, an unsung star of Purdue's defense, also seemed to be causing size problems for Duke's hottest player in the tournament, Erickson, who is 5-6.

But whatever problems Erickson was having, they were not as noticeable as the troubles Figgs was having in the first half.

Figgs, who led Purdue with 24 points in its semifinal victory over Louisiana Tech, was 0 for 7.

The game officials contributed to the helter-skelter nature of the first half when they called 15 fouls on the teams.

Despite her struggles in the first

half, Figgs sparked Purdue's rally at the midpoint of the second half, scoring 8 points during a 12-1 run that gave the Boilermakers a 43-31 lead.

During this span, Duke turned the ball over on three consecutive trips down the court as Purdue pulled away.

A 3-point shot by Erickson and two strong post moves by VanGorp that led to easy baskets cut Purdue's lead to 42-38 with eight minutes to play.

But Douglas sank a 3-point basket from the wing that extended Purdue's lead to 7 points. Pepi Browne made one of two free throws, but Purdue's Camille Cooper converted a short jumper to increase its lead to 47-39 with 4:29 to play.

Portland Hangs On To Defeat Phoenix

The Associated Press

The Portland Trail Blazers blew a 21-point second-quarter lead but recovered to beat the Phoenix Suns on an inside basket by Arvydas Sabonis with 9.8 seconds left.

Sabonis had 18 points and 13 rebounds as Portland won, 88-86.

NBA ROUNDUP

Sunday night, Damon Stoudamire finished with 18 points and 13 assists as the visiting Trail Blazers won their sixth straight game to improve to 23-5, the best record in the league.

Jason Kidd, the Phoenix guard, hit two free throws with 30.3 seconds left to tie the game at 86-86.

Then Jim Jackson missed an 18-footer for Portland, but teammate Brian Grant grabbed the rebound and started to go up for the shot before finding Sabonis alone underneath for the easy basket.

"I didn't have time to think too much," Sabonis said. "It was a good rebound. I got a good pass. I'm in a good position and I did it."

Lakers 99, Knicks 91 Kobe Bryant scored 29 points, and Shaquille O'Neal had 21 points and nine rebounds as the Lakers won a physical battle against the visiting Knicks.

Kurt Thomas and Chris Dindley of the Knicks were ejected and five technical fouls were called in the game.

Magic 94, Heat 87 Darrell Armstrong scored 19 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Magic to victory over the Miami Heat in Orlando.

Pistons 104, SuperSonics 87 Lindsey Hunter scored 20 points, and

and Jerry Stackhouse and Bison Dele added 18 each for surging Detroit in a home game.

The Pistons have won five of six overall and 10 of their last 12 at home.

Pacers 101, Celtics 93 Chris Mullin scored all 16 of his points in the third quarter, and Larry Bird remained undefeated as a coach against his former team.

Mark Jackson added 15 points for the visiting Pacers, who are 6-0 against the Celtics since Bird became Indiana's coach.

Raptors 91, Bulls 78 Rookie Vince Carter had 22 points and six blocks as the Toronto extended its franchise-record home winning streak to six games.

The Bulls, who played without injured Toni Kukoc, lost their fourth straight.

Bucks 94, Timberwolves 85 Haywoode Workman scored 19 points as the visiting Milwaukee Bucks beat the Minnesota Timberwolves, who missed their last 15 shots.

Sam Mitchell led the Timberwolves with 20 points, while Kevin Garnett finished with 16 points, 18 rebounds and nine assists.

Hornets 105, Cavaliers 84 Rookie reserve Brad Miller scored 24 points in Charlotte as the Hornets defeated Cleveland.

The Hornets trailed by nine at halftime but outscored the Cavaliers 32-10 in the third quarter to take command.

Rockets 107, Kings 93 Hakeem Olajuwon had 24 points and nine rebounds in Sacramento as Houston won its eighth straight game.

After sitting out the entire third quarter with a sore back, Charles Barkley scored 11 of his 15 points in the first 5:14 of the fourth quarter.

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CENTRAL DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NBA STANDINGS

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WESTERN CONFERENCE

NCAA TOURNAMENT

WOMEN'S FINAL

SUNDAY IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

Purdue 62, Duke 45

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

ESTATE CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION

NORTH EAST DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NCAA TOURNAMENT

PACIFIC DIVISION

Y-DOLLS

WOMEN'S FINAL

SUNDAY IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

Purdue 17, Stanford 16

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Y-COLLEGE

EDMONTON

W-VANCOUVER

PACIFIC DIVISION

Y-DOLLS

P-BERKSHIRE 11 (LaClele, Brink/Auer) 3, D-KENOSHA 24 (Ward, Yarment, P. Jones, P. Jones) 10-22-24-22, P. Jones 6-15-4-4

Y-COLLEGE 9-20-21, P. Jones 6-15-4-4

EDMONTON 28-34-11-7, 167-191-203-13

EDMONTON 24 (P. Jones) 10-22-24-22, P. Jones 6-15-4-4

W-VANCOUVER 21-41-53-22, P. Jones 6-15-4-4

BALTIMORE 12, CUBA 2-11, 21-10

CHICAGO 2-11, 2-1-2

DETROIT 2-11, 2-1-2

DETROIT

ART BUCHWALD

Eye on the Dow

NEW YORK — The talk on the New York City cocktail party circuit has changed, thanks to the 10,000-Dow Jones whirling dervish.

In the past, the charter among the affluent had to do with villas in East Hampton, yachts in Monte Carlo and mountain-side palaces in Aspen.

But people on Wall Street are now upgrading their conversations. I asked Schulter if he had bought anything lately.

"Yes," he said. "I just purchased a company in Cleveland."

Mrs. Freiback, standing with us, said: "We were going to buy a company in Cleveland, but we didn't like the winters. Harold decided to purchase a screwdriver factory in Mississippi. It has an ocean view."

"We're looking at a toaster company in New Mexico that



the Japanese are trying to sell for \$3 billion," Grumbach said. "It can park 500 employee cars."

The talk was heady, and I could tell everyone was trying to top everyone else.

Jason declared, "If everyone can keep it under his hat, we're going to merge with a waste disposal outfit in Hungary."

"I love Hungary," Mrs. Jason said. "It's so quiet there when the tourists go home."

I asked the host, "Is there anyone here who isn't merging or making an unfriendly bid on another company?"

He replied, "There doesn't seem to be anybody, except a brain surgeon and Norman Mailer."

"Don't you people care about beautiful homes in Palm Beach and owning islands in Greece?"

"We used to," Grumbach said. "But no one is impressed anymore. At least when you buy a company, people sit up and take notice, particularly if you tell them the size of your golden parachute."

Another Titanic Auction

The Associated Press

TACOMA, Washington — In yet another auction of items related to the Titanic, a boarding pass for the doomed liner is listed as the top item at a sale scheduled for the 87th anniversary of the start of the ship's voyage.

The rare document is an immigrant inspection card that was issued to Anna Sofia Sjöblom of Finland, who pinned it to the inside of her jacket. The young woman survived the sinking and later settled in this northwestern U.S. city with her uncle, the jacket and inspection card intact. She died in 1975.

The document, sold about six months ago by a man identified only as the widower of Sjöblom's granddaughter, will go on the block April 10 at Sanford and Son Antiques. The house expects it to bring at least \$5,000.

A postcard from the Titanic, never mailed by the teenager who wrote it, was sold for \$24,150 at auction in London last year. A White Star Line poster advertising the ship's return voyage from New York brought \$9,300. An original Titanic menu, pasted to the back of an oil painting of the ship, recently was appraised at \$75,000.

FINITO — Some of the 2,500 young violinists playing in the 45th Suzuki Method concert in Tokyo as part of the graduation ceremonies.

A Goldwyn Moves Up in the Family Business

By Sylviane Gold

NEW YORK — About five years ago, the actor Tony Goldwyn started getting restless. "I'd gotten to the point in my career where I knew I would get work — I knew the mortgage would get paid," he said.

His performance in the 1990 off-Broadway play "The Sum of Us" had put him on the New York theater map. The same year, his portrayal of the yuppie villain in "Ghost" had done the same in Hollywood. But he wanted more.

"As an actor," he said, "your involvement in the filmmaking process is limited: You show up, you make your contribution and you leave. I felt, 'Is this what I want from my life, just to be providing services?'

His response was perhaps inevitable for the son of the movie producer Samuel Goldwyn Jr. and the grandson of the Hollywood legend Sam Goldwyn. He would find a script he wanted to act in and produce himself. "Theo, if I'm in a big hit movie, and become financeable," he recalls thinking, "I'll say, 'Here's a script I've always wanted to do.'"

He saw it as something that might happen 10 years down the road. But it didn't turn out that way because of a script called "The Blouse Man," by a poet and playwright named Pamela Gray. Seizing on the screenplay, Goldwyn filmed it as "A Walk on the Moon," which opened in the United States on Friday. And although Goldwyn does not act in it, he is indeed one of the producers and, more important, its director.

Gray, who grew up in Brooklyn, based "The Blouse Man" on her memories of the Catskill Mountains in New York, where she spent summer vacations with her family. A California boy, Goldwyn knew nothing of the annual summer exodus that brought working-class Jewish families from New York City to "the mountains" during the 1940s, '50s and '60s. And he was only 9 during the summer of 1969, when Neil Armstrong planted his boots on the lunar surface and some 400,000 hippies turned a concert in upstate New York into a cultural watershed.

But he fell in love with Gray's story of Pearl Kantrowitz, a young Brooklyn mother, who is drawn into an affair when the spirit of Woodstock invades her Catskill bungalow colony.

"I really identified with that moment that usually happens to people in their early 30s," said Goldwyn, now 38. "You sud-



Tony Goldwyn, director of "A Walk on the Moon," at home in Connecticut.

denly see your life laid out in front of you. And you say, 'Is this the life I dreamed of having? Am I the person I wanted to become?' If the answer's no, that's a very scary moment. And sometimes what it takes to deal with that is very risky: It requires shattering the status quo. And I thought the setting for Pearl's love affair, in 1969, was the perfect metaphor, because that's exactly what was happening to the country."

"A Walk on the Moon," re-creates the summer ritual of cars overflowing with bedding, suitcases and kiteware heading north toward the low-rent cousins of fancy resorts like Cuisther's and the Nevele; loudspeakers announcing the arrival on the premises of the ice cream truck or the knish truck or the blouse truck; al fresco mahjong games during the day, third-rate comedians or old movies in the "casino" at night.

It's the man who sells the blouses, played by Viggo Mortensen, who disturbs the equilibrium of the Kantrowitz family: Diane Lane as Pearl, dimly aware that she has missed something; Liev Schreiber as her decent but dullish husband; Anna Paquin as their pubescent daughter, and Tovah

Feldshuh as Pearl's shrewd mother-in-law. "I'd always watched directors oo all the films I've worked on and thought, 'I'm so glad that's not me,'" Goldwyn said. "I had tremendous admiration for directors, and I didn't know if I possessed the skills required. But it didn't seem like a lot of fun."

His plan was to produce the film and let someone else take on the "anxieties" of directing. He had been helping Gray refine the script. It was "never black and white," she said, "but he helped me put in more shades of gray." And he was wondering how on earth he would find a director who shared his passion for the story.

"When I decided to direct it," Goldwyn said, "I thought, 'O.K., this is going to be a war, and I'm just going to rong my way through it.'" One of its producers, Dustin Hoffman, also resorted to military imagery: Making a movie, he said by telephone, is like being in a foxhole. "And you want a director who makes you feel it's O.K. to get up and charge, but who helps you stay relaxed — 'Don't worry, you won't get killed.'"

Just as Goldwyn ended up directing a film he had wanted to produce, Hoffman ended

up producing a film he had wanted to direct. He had read the screenplay and thought he might like to try his hand at directing it. When he found that Goldwyn had got there first, Hoffman and his production company joined the project as producers. "It was the next-best thing," he says.

The two actors had never met. But, Hoffman said: "We hit it off right away. After a couple of conversations, we knew we were responding to the same things in the script. It's like a first date: You know pretty quickly if there's going to be a second."

Lane gives Goldwyn high marks for his "tenacity and follow-through." Speaking by phone from California, she said, "They ought to give Oscars to the people who get to the green light. That's a pure labor of love, because you never know if it's actually going to happen."

Hoffman's participation did more than just insure that "A Walk on the Moon" would happen, Goldwyn said. "What's so brilliant about Dustin," he said, "is that he's always looking for the possibilities, never saying, 'It's done.' And having a creative voice telling me that made us a really good combination."

Goldwyn also got advice from his father, who had been encouraging him to direct. "You can do more than act," he would tell me," Goldwyn said. "And I'd go, 'Yeah, Pop, leave me alone.' But I think one of the things that led me to say, 'Yes, I should do this,' was that I'd heard it before."

Goldwyn's father admired Gray's script, but though he was encouraging, he couldn't quite understand why his son was so driven to make the film. When the elder Goldwyn saw a rough cut of "A Walk on the Moon," "He got it," his son recalled. "He said, 'I understand. You made a movie about love.' And then he gave me lots of notes. I involved him a fair bit."

It was a new element in their relationship, he said. "When I was starting out as an actor, we sort of had a rule: It was my thing. I didn't want his help, nor did he want to give it; nor could he have, really." There are two more screenplays he has fallen in love with, and he and Hoffman are planning to work together again, with Goldwyn directing Hoffman as a Las Vegas chiropractor. Directing doesn't scare him any more. "It was fun," he said.

Sylviane Gold, who reviews dance for Newsday and writes frequently about the arts, wrote this for The New York Times.

PEOPLE

IS the tenor Andrea Bocelli ready for the opera? "I don't feel I'm really credible enough yet," the Italian singer says. "I still have to suffer a little while longer." Bocelli's ballads have sold 20 million records worldwide and have earned a Grammy nomination. Last week, he sang a duet with Celine Dion at the Oscar ceremonies. Bocelli, who is blind, is scheduled to step from the confines of pop this autumn to make his U.S. opera debut at the Michigan Opera Theater in Detroit, singing the title role in Massenet's "Werther." If opera proves a comfortable fit, Bocelli says he wouldn't mind giving up his pop career.

Attorneys for the model Christie Brinkley have agreed to settle a lawsuit against an aircraft parts company stemming from a 1994 helicopter crash in Colorado. A district judge in Texas dismissed Brinkley's part of the suit last week. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed. In 1996, Brinkley and others sued American Eurocopter, a parts supplier in Grand Prairie, Texas, alleging

negligence in a mountain helicopter crash in which Brinkley was injured. The company cited a National Transportation Safety Board ruling that bad weather and pilot error caused the crash.

Saxophones wailed and trumpets blared as a sculpture of the jazz legend Charlie (Bird) Parker was unveiled in Kansas City, Missouri, his hometown. Hundreds gathered in the historic 18th and Vine Jazz District, where Parker once played with such greats as Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie, and Parker's former wife, Doris, and his daughter, Kim, were on hand as the bronze sculpture of Parker's head was unveiled, with the words "Bird Lives" at its base.

Liam Gallagher, the bad-boy lead singer of Oasis, and his pregnant wife, the actress Patsy Kensit, were shaken up when British soccer hooligans threw a brick through the window of their car, newspapers reported Monday. Gallagh-

er told The Sun of the attack in the Marylebone area of London before a match between England and Poland.

Dame Judi Dench's busy calendar is getting fuller. Besides March 21 (accept

Academy Award for best supporting actress) and April 3 (open at the Barrymore Theater in New York in David Hare's "Army's View"), there is May 17 (accept the Shakespeare Guild's Gielgud Award for Excellence in Dramatic Arts at the Barrymore). The presentation will be made by last year's recipient, Zoe Caldwell.

Duchess of York Hears a Swiss Siren Call

Reuters

LONDON — The Duchess of York is considering moving from Britain to Switzerland to save thousands of pounds in taxes, the Mirror newspaper reported Monday.

The tabloid quoted friends of Sarah Ferguson, who was divorced from Queen Elizabeth's second son, Prince Andrew, in 1992, as saying that moving abroad was her only option after Buckingham Palace declined to come up with more child support for her daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie.

The two girls, 10 and 9, have been registered to attend Aiglon College in the Swiss alpine resort of Villars next year, but they have also been registered at two boarding schools in England, the newspaper continued.

The duchess, popularly known as Fergie, burst onto the royal scene in 1986 as a woman determined to live life to the full. When her marriage collapsed, many supporters of the royal family could barely conceal their relief at her departure.

FINITO — Some of the 2,500 young violinists playing in the 45th Suzuki Method concert in Tokyo as part of the graduation ceremonies.

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